Supreme Court, U.S.
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No. _____

In The
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
_____ Term, 2001

RONALD WATSON LAFFERTY, ***Petitioner,***

v.

STATE OF UTAH, ***Respondent.***

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UTAH SUPREME COURT

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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122 pp

CAPITAL CASE

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Did the Utah Supreme Court err in finding that substantial compliance with due process rights at the sanity proceedings at trial did not violate the Petitioner's due process right to a fair hearing on the issue of his competence to stand trial?

2. Did the Utah Supreme Court err in finding that the trial judge was correct in not holding a competency inquiry after being informed by Petitioner's counsel, that the Petitioner was not participating in the trial process in a rational manner?

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RONALD WATSON LAFFERTY, ***Petitioner,***

V.

STATE OF UTAH, ***Respondent.***

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UTAH STATE SUPREME COURT

Petitioner Ronald Watson Lafferty petitions the Court for a writ of certiorari to review the published decision of the Utah Supreme Court which affirmed the capital conviction and death sentence of the Petitioner on the grounds that the decision of the Utah Supreme Court is in conflict with the decisions of this Court and the rights guaranteed Petitioner by the Constitution of the United States.

OPINION BELOW

The published opinion of the Utah State Supreme Court is reported in *State v. Lafferty*, 20 P.3d 342, 2001 UT 19. A copy of this opinion is reproduced as Appendix A to this petition.

JURISDICTION

Petitioner Ronald Watson Lafferty was convicted and sentenced to death May 7, 1985, for two counts of first degree murder. Upon appeal to the Utah Supreme Court, his conviction and sentence were affirmed. Petitioner filed a petition for habeas corpus relief in the United States District Court for the District of Utah. When his petition was denied, Lafferty appealed the decision to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and on January 3, 1992, that Court vacated Lafferty's conviction and sentence on the ground that the trial court had applied the wrong legal standard to determine competency.

Lafferty was then evaluated for competency at a hearing held on November 19, 1992, in the Fourth Judicial District Court for Utah County, State of Utah. At that hearing, applying the correct legal standard, Lafferty was found to be incompetent to proceed to trial and was committed to the Utah State Hospital for treatment. On May 2, 1994, following a hearing, a Judge of the Fourth Judicial District Court, State of Utah, found Lafferty competent to proceed to trial.

At a second jury trial, Lafferty was again convicted of two counts of first degree murder and sentenced to death. Lafferty appealed his conviction and sentence to the Utah Supreme Court which affirmed his convictions on February 23, 2001.

Petitioner now invokes the jurisdiction of this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1257(a).

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND STATUTES INVOLVED

United States Constitution, Amend. XIV, § 1

> All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Utah Code Annotated §§ 77-15-1 et seq.

The full text is set forth in the Appendix.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The factual background of this case is set forth in the opinion of the Utah Supreme Court (Appendix A). The evidence surrounding the criminal charges will not be recited here as the pertinent facts are those underlying the trial court's ruling on the competency of Lafferty to stand trial and the admission of victim impact evidence during the penalty hearing.

The appellant, Ronald Watson Lafferty, and his brother, Dan Lafferty, were charged with the commission of two capital felonies involving the death of Brenda Lafferty, a sister-in-law, and a niece, Erica Lafferty, in violation of Utah Code Ann. § 76-

5-202 (Supp. 1985). The two brothers were also charged with committing aggravated burglary of the victims' home and of committing aggravated burglary of the home of Cloe Low in violation of Utah Code Ann. § 76-6-203 (1978) and two counts of conspiracy to commit first-degree homicide of Chole Low and Richard Stowe, first degree felonies, in violation of Utah Code Ann. § 76-4-201 (1978).

Following a suicide attempt at the jail during which Lafferty was rendered unconscious for a period of time, the State filed a petition to determine Lafferty's competency. The trial court then severed the trial of Lafferty from that of his brother, Dan. After a jury trial, Dan was convicted of all counts, but the jury did not impose the death penalty. Ultimately, after several hearings, the trial court found that there was insufficient evidence to establish that Lafferty was incompetent to stand trial.

A jury trial was held April 25, 1985, through May 7, 1985, following which Lafferty was convicted of all counts and the death penalty was imposed on the two capital homicides. Following an unsuccessful appeal, Lafferty filed a habeas corpus petition in federal court which ultimately resulted in a ruling by the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals granting Petitioner's writ upon the grounds that the state trial court had applied the wrong legal standard to determine the competency of the Petitioner. *Lafferty v. Cook*, 949 F.2d 1591(10th Cir. 1991).

On July 17, 1992, the State filed a petition for inquiry into Lafferty's competency. On July 28, 1992, the trial court ordered examinations to be conducted at the Utah State Hospital to determine Lafferty's competency to stand trial.

On November 19, 1992, a hearing on the issue of Lafferty's competency to stand trial was held before the Honorable George E. Ballif. Following the hearing, the trial court filed a decision finding Lafferty unable to assist his counsel in a rational and realistic way and that as a result of mental illness, Lafferty was not competent to proceed to trial. The court ordered Lafferty remanded to the Utah State Hospital for treatment of his illness.

On February 4, 1994, a further competency hearing was held before the Honorable Steven L. Hansen. Judge Hansen determined that Lafferty was currently competent to proceed to trial and Findings and conclusions were entered by the court on May 2, 1994.

Trial was commenced on March 1, 1996, beginning with jury selection. During the jury selection process, the State raised concerns of "new" allegations concerning the issue of Lafferty's competency raised by a defense Motion to Keep Petitioner in the Courtroom and requested an opportunity to have the State's experts further examine Lafferty relative to competency. The trial court determined to have a full competency hearing using the experts who had previously examined Lafferty.

On March 8 & 14, 1996, a competency hearing was conducted. During the course of the hearing several medical reports and evaluations were admitted into evidence. During the competency hearing, evidence from the eight experts who examined the Petitioner revealed that the Petitioner expressed to the evaluators certain "beliefs" which effected his perception of the trial and participants, including his counsel, the judge,

prosecutors, and jury.

Evidence was introduced that indicated that the Lafferty received revelations, some of which came from God, but some of which came from evil beings or spirits identified by Lafferty as "travelers". Lafferty identified the "travelers" as consisting of homosexual spirit beings/entities with the power to inhabit bodies of living persons or "hosts"--including Judge Hansen, the prosecutors, his counsel, the jurors and witnesses. The evil travelers have power to "exude evil" and to control the persons they inhabit. Being homosexual, they would enter the bodies "from the rear" and have the ability to travel from one human host to another since they knew "key words"necessary to travel.

Lafferty identified the most powerful of the travelers to be evil travelers including "Moroni/Lucifer/Hitler", the most cunning and evil of the travelers; "Budda/Satan/Japan", "Beelzebub/Mussolini/Hitler", and, Watson Lafferty, Sr., Petitioner's father, hosted by Dan Lafferty, Petitioner's brother.

The evidence indicated that Lafferty deemed himself to have powers not possessed by normal persons. The evidence indicated that he believed that he, in a pre-mortal spiritual existence was enlisted in a war between good and evil on the side of God where he contested with Lucifer "in the manner of spiritual warfare". Lafferty was successful in the spiritual battle and as a reward, was given Lucifer's mate, Diana, to be his mate in his earthly existence. (Diana was Lafferty's wife prior to divorcing him).

The evidence indicated that Lafferty believed himself to be a good traveler trapped inside his physical body since he did

not remember or know the "key words" which allowed him to travel. Prior to Lafferty's suicide attempt in 1985, he had asked his brother Dan to lay his hands on him and to cast out the evil spirits inhabiting his physical body. All of the spirits were cast out with the exception of one which refused to leave his body. Lafferty indicated that the one which would not leave was his own spirit which could not leave until he learns the key words.

The evil travelers have the purpose, and have conspired, to use their powers against Lafferty. Lafferty believed that they would influence his trial by influencing the judge, jury and witnesses as well as his own counsel. The evidence adduced at the hearing indicated that he believed that the evil travelers had already entered Dr. Cohen and Dr. Wooton during their interviews with Petitioner at the Utah County Jail. Lafferty indicated to examiners that during an examination conducted at the jail by Dr. Wooton, he became aware that the traveler "Moroni" had entered Dr. Wooton. Upon leaving the interview room, his discernment of "Moroni" was confirmed when he saw the word "Moroni" in large letters on the wall of the jail.

The examiners also testified that Lafferty related an experience where a being had appeared in his jail cell and attempted to attack him but was repelled when the Petitioner lay back on his bunk and put his feet up as if to kick the being. The being went out through the wall of the cell. He also recounted occasions while housed at the Utah State Prison where the Petitioner had discerned the presence of evil travelers and had been warned by "helper" beings.

The evidence indicated that Lafferty believes that there is no more powerful being on earth than himself and that he holds

the "office of Jesus Christ". Although he cannot travel from his physical body until he learns the "key words", he possess several powers to protect him and others from the evil travelers. By spiritually "cleansing" his cell each morning, he makes it difficult for evil travelers to enter. He also has the use of what he described as a device similar to a "reflector shield" which is a "spiritual aura" capable of repelling anything abrasive. Lafferty believes he possesses the power to "discern" the presence of the travelers when they appear. Petitioner also uses verbal "outbursts" to nullify and confuse the travelers. Lafferty believes the evil travelers understand and respond to the verbal messages of the Petitioner and choose not to contend with him.

The evidence showed Lafferty to believe that "helper spirits"--beings different from travelers--would come to assist when evil appeared. He described these beings as being similar to "guardian angels" in purpose, but not guardian angels. Lafferty was able to know when the "helper" beings were present by hearing a buzz. The buzzing was loud enough that Lafferty expected others, including his counsel, to be able to hear it.

At the hearing, all of the expert witnesses for the State--Drs. Gardner, Golding, Cohen, and Wooton--opined that Lafferty was competent to proceed with trial. On the other hand, the expert witnesses called by the defense--Drs. Howell, Groesbeck, Heinbecker, and Washburn--all opined that Lafferty was not competent to proceed. Following the hearing, the trial court ruled that Lafferty was competent.

On April 9, 1996, during the jury trial an *in camera* meeting, counsel for the Petitioner raised concerns about Lafferty's continued complaints about the buzzing of the helper

spirits and indicated to the court that the Petitioner had indicated that he was having difficulty hearing the witnesses over the buzzing. Counsel also indicated that the Petitioner was concerned that no one else could hear the buzzing and asked if his counsel could bring a dog into the court room to verify the noises since the dog could hear the frequency of the noises. Counsel also indicated that Lafferty complained that the jail had put something in his food and that his behavior varied from being hyper and animated to being morose and depressed. Counsel also indicated that one of the defense experts had seen him at the Utah County Jail the night before and found him to be very manic and agitated.

Defense counsel further indicated that the defense had been able to control the behavior of the Petitioner to some extent by the use of paralegals who would distract Lafferty when he became agitated and that counsel had been able to avoid the court's removal of the Petitioner from the courtroom by this process. The attorneys for the Petitioner expressed concern that the jurors were starting to watch the Petitioner and were taking notes on his conduct and that the lawyers were concerned that his state of agitation may become out of control. Counsel also indicated that the Petitioner had expressed concern that one of his attorneys, Mr. Esplin, had become influenced by the traveler Moroni. The court took no further action to review competency.

On April 10, 1996, a verdict of "guilty" on two counts of first degree criminal homicide, two counts of aggravated burglary, and two counts of conspiracy to commit criminal homicide was rendered.

On April 16, 1996, the penalty phase portion of the trial was conducted before the same jury which convicted Lafferty. At the close of the proceedings, the jury returned a sentence of death on both counts of capital homicide.

On May 31, 1996, Lafferty was sentenced to death on the capital homicide charges and a warrant of execution was signed by the Honorable Steven L. Hansen, Fourth District Court.

On June 10, 1996, Lafferty filed a Motion for New Trial pursuant to Rule 24 of the Utah Rules of Criminal Procedure. Lafferty argued that new proceedings were justified on the following grounds: One, that the trial court erred in its competency determination; and two, that the trial court erroneously admitted videotaped victim impact evidence showing the baby with her throat slashed lying in her crib during the penalty phase. On September 9, 1996, the trial court denied Lafferty's motion. Lafferty then appealed to the Utah Supreme Court who affirmed his conviction on February 23, 2001.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

I.

THIS COURT SHOULD GRANT CERTIORARI TO REVIEW THE UTAH SUPREME COURT'S ERRONEOUS RULING THAT ALTHOUGH THE COMPETENCY HEARING HELD BY THE COURT DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE STATUTORY PROVISIONS, SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE DID NOT VIOLATE THE PETITIONER'S RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS.

Whether a defendant is competent to stand trial is a question of federal constitutional law. To be competent to stand trial, the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution requires that the defendant must have the capacity to understand the nature and object of the proceedings against him, to consult with counsel, and to assist in preparing his defense. *Dusky v. United States*, 362 U.S. 402, 80 S.Ct. 788, 4 L.Ed. 2d 824 (1969); *Drope v. Missouri*, 420 U.S. 162, 95 S.Ct. 896, 43 L.Ed. 2d 103 (1975); *Pate v. Robinson*, 383 U.S. 375, 86 S.Ct. 836, 15 L.Ed. 2d 815 (1966). The hearing to determine the competence of a defendant to stand trial must procedurally and substantively comply with due process. *Walker v. Att"y General*, 167 F.3d 1339, 1343 (10th Cir. 1999). Where a procedural due process , competency claim is raised, the individual is held to a lower burden of proof than in a substantive competency claim. *See Id.* at 1344. Because the conviction of an accused person while legally incompetent to stand trial violates due process, states are required to provide adequate procedures to protect accused individuals. *Pate v. Robinson, Infra.* The State of Utah has enacted Utah Code Annotated §§77-15-1, *et.seq.*, which sets forth the procedures designed to protect against an incompetent defendant from being tried and convicted.

Petitioner asserted on appeal that the state trial court failed to comply with the clear provisions of the statute governing the competency hearings in Utah in several particulars. First, the Petitioner claimed that the failure to appoint independent examiners violated his right to a fair hearing, in that the examiners appointed by the court were experts whom had been designated by prosecution and defense as party witnesses on the issues pertaining to Petitioner's mental

health defenses. Those witnesses split exactly along "party lines" in their opinions, with those of the state finding Petitioner competent and those of the defense finding the Petitioner incompetent.

Second, Petitioner claimed that the failure to observe the statutory time periods set forth in the statutes violated his right to due process. The Utah statute codified at Utah Code Annotated § 77-15-5(6) provides that the examiners shall provide written reports within 30 days to the court and counsel and then, after the reports have been received, the hearing shall be held not less than five days and not more than fifteen days from the receipt of the reports. The Court set the hearing without having received any reports and in fact, some witnesses who testified on behalf of the Petitioner did not have time to prepare reports as the Petitioner was required to proceed first with witnesses. Neither Petitioner's counsel nor his experts had adequate opportunity to examine or review the any written reports of state's experts prior to the hearing which compromised counsel's ability to effectively conduct examination of the defense witnesses and to effectively cross examine the state's witnesses.

Third, the statutes governing competency proceedings require that the reports of the examiners address specific factors which are set forth in order to insure that a defendant not only has a factual understanding, but also a rational understanding of the proceedings and to insure that the defendant can assist in his defense. The reports of the examiners who had time to file reports prior to the hearing did not address the statutory factors.

The Utah Supreme Court ruled that the statute did not

require the appointment of independent examiners, but simply examiners who were not currently treating the Petitioner. Although the appellate court agreed that holding the hearing within one day of the receipt of expert reports was "error" and not in compliance with the statute, the court found the error to be "harmless". *State v. Lafferty*, 2001 UT 19 at ¶ 37. The court also held that while the reports did not address the statutory factors and although there may have been a "violation of the statute", such error was also harmless. *Lafferty*, 2001 UT 19 at ¶¶ 38-42.

This Court should review the findings of the Utah Supreme Court as those findings are in conflict with the decisions of this Court in that failure to follow procedures set forth to protect constitutional rights cannot be considered harmless error. The rulings of the Utah Supreme Court are conflict with the principles of a fair hearing required by the decisions in *Drope, Infra.*, *Pate, Infra.*, and with the 10th Circuit decisions in *McGreggor v. Gibson*, 2001 WL 359509 (10th Cir. Okla. (2001).

II.

THE COURT SHOULD GRANT CERTIORARI TO REVIEW THE ERRONEOUS FINDING OF THE UTAH SUPREME COURT IN RULING THAT THE TRIAL COURT WAS CORRECT IN FAILING TO CONDUCT ANY ADDITIONAL INQUIRY INTO THE COMPETENCY OF THE PETITIONER AFTER HAVING BEEN INFORMED BY COUNSEL OF SPECIFIC CONCERNS WITH PETITIONER'S CONDUCT DURING THE TRIAL.

As set forth above, during the trial, Petitioner's counsel became concerned with the conduct of the Petitioner and the Petitioner's ability to participate in proceedings in a rational manner. Counsel related specific instances where the Petitioner complained of hearing a loud buzzing sound, sufficiently loud that he could not hear the witnesses and became upset when informed that no one else could hear the noise. Lafferty suggested that the parties bring a dog into the courtroom to verify that there was a buzzing. Counsel reported that a psychiatrist had examined the Petitioner and found him to be "manic and agitated". Counsel indicated that they had to use paralegal's assistance to distract the Petitioner from inappropriate conduct in the presence of the jurors and questioned whether or not Petitioner was even part of the trial. Following the *in camera* concerns of the Petitioner's counsel, the defense called Dr. Gillette, the expert who had conducted a mental status evaluation on the Petitioner the night previous. He testified that in his opinion, the Petitioner was at the time, unable to have a rational understanding of the proceedings due to a deterioration in his mental state.

Pate v. Robinson, 383 U.S. 375 (1966), requires that when evidence of incompetency becomes manifest during trial, the court should conduct an inquiry to determine the defendant's competency. The decision of this Court in *Drope, infra.*, provides that a defendant's demeanor, and irrational behavior during trial are factors which may be considered in considering a procedural competency claim. *Drope*, 420 U.S. at 180. The United States 10th Circuit Court of Appeals summarized Petitioner's demeanor, irrational behavior, medical opinion, and representations of defense counsel as factors which would support a competency inquiry. In *McGregor v. Gibson*, 2001

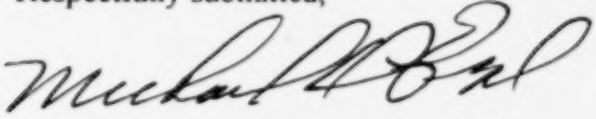
WL 359509 (10th Cir. Okla. 2001), indicated that any one factor could require a review of the competency of a defendant, but that a "totality" of the circumstances review should be considered and in the event that review suggests that the trial court should have had bona fide doubt as to the continued competency of a defendant, then a defendant's procedural competency rights have been violated. The conduct described and concerns expressed by defense counsel together with the medical opinion should have raised a bona fide doubt to the trial court as to the competency of the Petitioner.

This Court should review the decision of the Utah Supreme Court in upholding the failure of the trial court to inquire into the competency of the Petitioner once the issue was raised by his counsel, a medical doctor, and Petitioner's conduct in the courtroom.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, Petitioner requests that a writ of certiorari issue in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF UTAH

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State of Utah,
Plaintiff and Appellee,

v.

Ronald Watson Lafferty,
Defendant and Appellant.

No. 970111

FILED
February 23, 2001

Fourth District, Utah County
The Honorable Steven L. Hansen

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HOWE, Chief Justice:

¶1 Defendant Ronald Watson Lafferty appeals from a judgment and conviction of two counts of first degree murder, aggravated burglary, and conspiracy to commit first degree murder. He was sentenced to death for the murder convictions. On appeal, he makes eight separate challenges: (1) whether the trial court erred in determining that he was competent to stand trial; (2) whether the trial court erred in granting the State's challenge for cause to remove Juror 220; (3) whether Utah's insanity defense, section 76-2-305 of the Utah Code, violates the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution and article I, section 9 of the Utah Constitution; (4) whether the trial court erred by admitting victim impact evidence during the penalty phase; (5) whether the trial court erred by allowing the introduction of statements made by defendant and his brother Dan Lafferty to the media; (6) whether the trial court erred by refusing to give defendant's requested instruction that the jury could consider sympathy or mercy in reaching its verdict during the penalty phase; (7) whether Utah's death penalty statute, section 76-3-207 of the Utah Code, is unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution and article I, sections 7 and 9 of the Utah Constitution; and (8) whether the retrial of defendant violated the Double Jeopardy Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution and article I, section 12 of the Utah Constitution.

BACKGROUND

¶2 The history leading up to the commission of these crimes is extensive and disturbing, but sheds light specifically on the

issue of competency as well as the other issues raised by the defense on appeal. In reviewing the jury verdict, we view the facts and all reasonable inferences drawn therefrom in the light most favorable to the verdict. See State v. Loose, 2000 UT 11, 9 2, 994 P.2d 1237; State v. Brown, 948 P.2d 337, 339 (Utah 1997). We present conflicting evidence only as necessary to understand the issues before us on appeal. See State v. Dunn, 850 P.2d 1201, 1206 (Utah 1993).

I. EVENTS PRECEDING JULY 24, 1984

¶3 Ronald Watson Lafferty was raised in Orem, Utah, the oldest son in a family of eight children. He was brought up in a strictly religious family, and was himself an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the LDS Church). At nineteen years of age, he served for two years as a volunteer missionary for the LDS Church in Florida. Approximately six months after he returned from his mission, defendant married Diana Sayer. They are the parents of six children. Acquaintances who knew defendant prior to 1982 described him as a strong family man. He was also a prominent member of his community, serving for a time on the city council in Highland, Utah.

¶4 During the period between 1982 and 1983, defendant began to change. He started spending increasingly large amounts of time with his brother Dan Lafferty. Dan had been in constant trouble with law enforcement for years for failing to pay taxes and disobeying licensing regulations.[1] As Dan and defendant

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[1]In 1982, Dan and another brother, Mark Lafferty, were practicing chiropractors in their parents' basement. The county placed a lien on the

conversed, defendant became increasingly converted to Dan's philosophies on government intervention. His appearance changed markedly. He went from being very clean cut and well groomed to wearing long hair and an unkempt beard and having the appearance of a "mountain man."

¶5 Defendant began to meet regularly with Dan, as well as with brothers Tim, Mark, and Watson, to discuss politics and religion. Defendant became increasingly critical of the LDS Church. Those who knew him well remarked that he seemed to have changed drastically not only in his beliefs, but in his personality as well. He began to stray further and further from mainstream society and was excommunicated from the LDS Church in 1983.[2]

¶6 The following year, defendant's wife Diana filed for and obtained a divorce and moved with their six children to Florida. Defendant felt his excommunication was unjust and was distraught over the dissolution of his marriage.

¶7 The brothers continued to meet together and opened their religious and political discussions to others with similar viewpoints. Through this process, they met Robert Crossfield, a

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home when Dan refused to pay taxes. Members of the family convinced defendant to try to talk to Dan and straighten out the tax issues associated with the home. It appears as though defendant's close interaction with Dan began around that time.

[2]The reasons given for defendant's excommunication were violating the law of the land, refusing to support his children, failing to sustain the leaders of the church, and teaching and advocating doctrine contrary to that of the church.

man from Canada claiming to be a prophet. Crossfield asserted that he had directions from God to teach the Lafferty brothers how to receive revelation and organize themselves into what he called the "School of the Prophets."[3] The brothers claimed they began to receive communications from God and would meet as a group to discuss these "revelations."

¶8 It was during this time that defendant first told his brothers that he had received a revelation that his ex-wife Diana had been the wife of the devil in a previous world. Defendant believed their union angered the devil, who in turn caused him trouble in this world out of jealousy. In the spring of 1984, defendant claimed to have received another revelation from God (the "removal revelation") ordering that four people were to be "removed." Among those to be "removed" were his brother Allen's wife Brenda, their fifteen-month-old daughter Erica, Richard Stowe, and Chloe Low.[4]

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[3]Allen, the youngest of the brothers, was not directly involved with the School of the Prophets. Dan testified, "I don't think Allen necessarily showed an interest. He wasn't called. We were all called by revelation, and he wasn't called."

[4]The removal revelation went as follows:

Thus saith the Lord unto my servants the prophets. It is my will and commandment that ye remove the following individuals in order that my work might go forward. For they have truly become obstacles in my path and I will not allow my work to be stopped. First thy brother's wife Brenda and her baby, then Chloe Low, and then Richard Stowe. And it is my will that they be removed in rapid succession and that an example to be made of them in order that others might see the fate of those who fight against the true saints of God. And it is my will that thsi matter be taken care of as soon as possible and I will prepare a way for my instrument to be delivered and instruction be given unto my servant Todd. And it is my will that he show great care in his duties for I have raised him up and prepared him for

¶9 Prior to this time, defendant had expressed negative feelings to other family members and friends about the four persons named in the removal revelation. Defendant believed that all four in some way had either helped his wife obtain a divorce or played a part in his excommunication from the LDS Church. Defendant thought Brenda had encouraged Diana to leave and divorce him. On several occasions before the removal revelation, defendant called Brenda a "bitch" and told Allen that Brenda "had better stop talking to Diana" and that "he didn't want her meddling in their affairs." After the removal revelation, defendant stated that Erica needed to be removed as well because "she would grow up to be a bitch just like her mother."[5] Chloe Low was also a friend of Diana's who helped and encouraged Diana to leave defendant. Richard Stowe was defendant's and Diana's ecclesiastical leader in the LDS Church and was a member of the church council that decided to excommunicate defendant. He also counseled Diana during the divorce proceedings as her ecclesiastical leader and helped her

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this important work and is he not like unto my servant Porter Rockwell. And great blessings await him if he will do my will, for I am the Lord thy God and have control over all things. Be still and know that I am with thee. Even so Amen. Todd, referred to in the removal revelation, was a hitchhiker whom Watson Lafferty picked up and brought into his home. Within a few weeks, Todd stole multiple personal effects belonging to the Laffertys and disappeared.

[5]It is clear from the record that Allen was made aware of the removal revelation prior to the murders of his wife and daughter, even though he did not participate in the School of the Prophets. He testified at trial that he was shocked when Dan and defendant approached him about the removal revelation. He told them he had received no such revelation and would defend his wife and daughter with his life. Earlier, defendant told Allen that "people weren't safe in meddling in his affairs anymore, that he felt justified in taking action of some sort against who crossed him."

obtain financial aid from the LDS Church.

¶10 In conjunction with the removal revelation, defendant claimed to have received another revelation on March 13, 1984, commanding that he and the School of the Prophets "consecrate" an "instrument" to be used in the removal of the four named individuals.[6] When he discussed this new revelation, only Dan and Watson agreed to such an action; the others involved with the School of the Prophets felt that this and the removal revelation were not of God and disassociated themselves from the revelations. The School of the Prophets disbanded because of disagreement over this issue, but Dan and defendant continued in their belief that the revelations needed to be fulfilled.

II. JULY 24, 1984

¶11 On the morning of July 24, 1984, defendant, Dan, and friends Charles Carnes ("Chip") and Ricky Knapp planned to go to Salt Lake City for the day.[7] Before leaving, defendant told the group he felt impressed that they should go to his brother Mark's house to pick up a rifle. Once they arrived there, Mark asked

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[6]That revelation stated:

And it is my will that the instrument that I have delivered unto thee be consecrated, dedicated, and set apart in the school for my purposes. And it is my will that it be delivered unto he whom I have raised up, even my son,...and that he be instructed by the school. And I will prepare a way by which my work in these matters may be accomplished.

[7]There is some dispute in the records as to where the men were actually headed that day; however, their actual destination is not material to this appeal.

what they were going to do with the gun, because defendant had quit hunting years earlier. Defendant replied that he was going hunting for "[a]ny fucking thing that gets in my way." The men then headed to Allen's apartment, apparently to look for another rifle. On the way, Dan and defendant began discussing whether the removal revelation was to be fulfilled that day.

¶12 When the four reached the apartment, defendant exited the car and knocked on the front door. The three other men remained in the car. When no one answered, defendant returned to the car and drove away, heading toward Salt Lake City. Before they had driven far, Dan said he felt impressed to turn around and return to Allen's apartment. When they arrived, Dan went to the door and knocked. This time, Brenda Lafferty answered the door.

¶13 Dan pushed past Brenda into the apartment and was inside alone with Brenda for a few minutes when the men in the car heard the two fighting inside the apartment. Defendant then left the car and entered the apartment as well. Chip testified at trial that once defendant entered the apartment, he could hear defendant calling Brenda a "bitch" and a "liar," and could hear Brenda being physically beaten. From where he sat in the car in the driveway, Chip heard Brenda screaming, "Don't hurt my baby. Please don't hurt my baby." He could also hear the baby crying, "Mommy, mommy, mommy." The apartment then became quiet. A few minutes later, Dan and defendant emerged from the rear of the apartment and entered the car, their clothes covered in blood.

¶14 The men next drove to the Low residence. On the way, defendant commented that Chloe Low would be an easy target

because of her small size. When they reached Low's house and determined no one was there, the men broke into the house and took numerous items. As they left Low's house, defendant began talking about going on to Richard Stowe's home.

¶15 After accidentally missing the turnoff to the Stowe residence, Dan and defendant decided to abandon trying to fulfill the rest of the revelation. They stopped at a service station and then headed toward Wendover. Chip testified that on the way, defendant pulled a knife out of his boot, started to bang it on his knee, and said, "I killed her. I killed her. I killed the bitch. I can't believe I killed her." He then handed the knife to Dan, and said, "Thank you, Brother, for doing the baby because I don't think I had it in me." Dan replied, "It was no problem."[8]

¶16 Once in Wendover, the group rented a small kitchenette apartment where they cleaned up, ate, and spent the night. The next night, afraid of what the Lafferty brothers had said they had done, Ricky and Chip quietly left the apartment and drove away in the car. While traveling along Interstate 80, they found the knife in the car, rolled it in a towel, and threw it out the window. Later in Twin Falls, Idaho, they disposed of a bag of bloody clothing and other personal effects belonging to defendant and Dan. They then proceeded to Chip's brother's house in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where they were arrested on July 30, 1984. Defendant and Dan were taken into custody by the FBI in Reno, Nevada, on August 17, 1984.

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[8]Dan Lafferty testified at trial that he alone killed both Brenda and Erica. Ricky Knapp, the only other passenger in the car besides defendant and Chip Carnes, did not testify.

¶17 On the evening of July 24, 1984, Allen Lafferty came home from work to find his wife Brenda and baby Erica lifeless in their apartment. Brenda was in the kitchen lying in a pool of blood. She had sustained a severe beating and had contusions and bruises on her face, head, shoulders, arms, thigh, knees, and back. There was evidence of strangulation where a vacuum cord had been tightly and repeatedly wrapped around her neck. Her throat was cut; a six-inch-long incision sliced through her trachea, both jugular veins, and both carotid arteries and left a cut on her spinal column. Blood was smeared on the walls, drapes, door, and light switches, and there was other evidence throughout the apartment of a major struggle.

¶18 Fifteen-month-old Erica was found in a puddle of her own blood, propped up against the back of her crib with her head slumped over. Her throat was cut cleanly from ear to ear; the wound measured five and one-half inches. The incision sliced through both her carotid arteries, both jugular veins, and her esophagus and cut her cervical spinal column. All that attached her head to her body was bone and a little tissue. The medical examiner's report indicated that both Brenda and Erica were alive at the time their throats were slit.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

¶19 This case is before us for the second time after a second jury trial. At the first trial, defendant and Dan were charged with the commission of two capital felonies involving the deaths of Brenda and Erica Lafferty, aggravated burglary of the victims' home and of the home of Chloe Low, and two counts each of conspiracy to commit first degree homicide of Chloe Low and Richard Stowe.

¶20 The brothers were originally arraigned together, and the judge entered pleas of not guilty on their behalf when both declined to enter pleas. Prior to the first trial, two competency evaluations were made. On September 28, 1984, two court-appointed alienists found both men "not incompetent to proceed." At a second hearing on November 1, 1984, an evaluation at the Utah State Hospital resulted in a finding of competency. Thereafter, defendant attempted to commit suicide while in jail, and the State filed a third petition to determine competency. At this point, the trial court found defendant incompetent to proceed and ordered that he be sent to the state hospital for treatment. The trial court then severed defendant's trial from Dan's. Dan was convicted by a jury on all four counts and sentenced to life in prison.

¶21 A fourth competency hearing was held before defendant's first trial. The court found him competent to stand trial. A jury trial was then conducted April 25, 1985, through May 7,1985, and defendant was found guilty on all counts. The death penalty was imposed for the two capital homicides.

¶22 Following an unsuccessful appeal to this court, see State v. Lafferty, 749 P.2d 1239 (Utah 1988) ("Lafferty I"), defendant filed a federal habeas corpus petition that was ultimately granted by the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, holding that the state trial court had applied the wrong legal standard to determine competency. See Lafferty v. Cook, 949 F.2d 1546 (10th Cir. 1991) ("Lafferty II"). Defendant's convictions and sentences were consequently vacated.

¶23 Defendant was charged again with two counts each of first degree felony criminal homicide, first degree aggravated

burglary, and second degree conspiracy to commit criminal homicide. In November 1992, yet another competency hearing was held. After hearing testimony from Dr. Louis Moench, Dr. Robert Howell, and Dr. Phillip Washburn, the court found defendant was not competent to stand trial because of mental illness. Defendant was returned to the state hospital for treatment. At a subsequent competency hearing in February 1994, at which Dr. Steven Golding and Dr. Noel C. Gardner testified, the court determined that defendant was currently competent to stand trial. Trial was then delayed by defendant's filing of several motions and the disqualification of the county attorney's office. Finally, in February 1996, jury selection began.

¶24 After defendant was removed from the courtroom on several occasions for engaging in verbal and physical outbursts, defense counsel filed a motion opposing future removal of defendant from the courtroom during the trial. Allegations in the supporting memorandum to the motion again raised questions of competency, and the State moved to determine whether another competency hearing was required. When interviews of defendant by two experts contained conflicting conclusions, the trial court determined a full competency hearing was necessary and requested that eight experts who had previously examined defendant do so again to determine current competency.

¶25 In March 1996, the expert witnesses for the State, Drs. Gardner, Golding, Cohn, and Wootton, found defendant competent to stand trial. Experts for the defense, Drs. Howell, Groesbeck, and Washburn, testified that defendant was mentally ill and not competent to proceed. Dr. Heinbecker, also a defense expert, opined that further observation was needed to make a competency determination. Taking into consideration all the

alienists' evaluations, the trial court ultimately ruled that defendant was competent to stand trial.

¶26 Trial proceeded from March 25, 1996, to April 10, 1996, after which a second jury returned a verdict of guilty on all counts of criminal homicide, aggravated burglary, and conspiracy to commit criminal homicide. In April 1996, the penalty phase was conducted, and the jury unanimously rendered a verdict of death for both counts of capital homicide. Defendant appeals and has been granted a stay of execution pending this appeal.

ANALYSIS

I. COMPETENCY

¶27 Defendant contends that the trial court erred in failing to comply with the provisions of Utah Code Ann. §§ 77-15-1 to -9 (1995), which provide guidelines for determining whether an accused is competent to stand trial. He challenges both the trial court's application of section 77-15-5 and its factual findings. First, as to application of the statute, he asserts that the use of examiners who had already affiliated themselves with either the State or the defense violated the intent of the statute; that the statutory timetable was not followed in obtaining the expert testimony; that many of the reports lacked in content; and that interviews alone were insufficient bases for the experts' testimonies. He contends these alleged errors denied him his right to due process and equal protection pursuant to the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and article I, sections 7 and 24 of the Utah Constitution. Second, defendant contends the trial court's finding of competency was

clearly erroneous. Finally, defendant challenges the trial court's denial of his motion for a new trial.

A. Compliance with Section 77-15-5

1. Use of Prior Alienists in Competency Evaluation

¶28 The relevant statutory section pertaining to expert testimony in a competency hearing is section 77-15-5(2) (b): "The defendant shall be examined by at least two mental health experts not involved in the current treatment of the defendant." Defendant charges that the court did not meet the requirements of the statute when it allowed experts who had testified previously to participate in this competency hearing.

¶29 First, the trial court conducted an informal, preliminary investigation to determine whether a full competency hearing was needed. Initially, defendant objected to the participation of any expert who had been used in previous proceedings in this case. The judge then asked whether any of the experts could be agreed upon. Counsel for defendant and the State then agreed to allow an alienist from each side to investigate whether a legitimate issue of competency existed. Neither of these experts was involved with the immediate treatment of defendant. Thus, even the initial evaluations met the requirements of section 77-15-5(2) (b).

¶30 Upon receiving conflicting initial evaluations on defendant's competency from the two alienists, the trial court decided a full competency hearing was necessary. The court ordered that defendant be evaluated by eight of the mental health experts previously appointed by the court, none of whom were

involved in the current treatment of defendant. Defense counsel expressed concern that Dr. Groesbeck, one of defendant's prior witnesses, would not be in town to participate in the competency hearing, and stated that he would prefer not to use a substitute. Counsel stated that Dr. Groesbeck "was present during the interview, which I think is--a lot of these things came out--and I think it is important to have him here." Defense counsel then agreed to let Dr. Groesbeck testify early rather than have a substitute participate in the competency hearing.

¶31 Section 77-15-5(2) (b) is clear and unambiguous, and we will not read it to be unduly restrictive. It requires examination by "two mental heath experts not involved in the current treatment of the defendant," None of the participating experts in either the informal or the formal hearings were involved in the immediate treatment of defendant. Thus, the requirements of section 77-15-5(2) (b) were met.

¶32 Defendant argues, however, that the intent of section 77-15-5(2) (b) is to appoint independent examiners. He has not offered, nor can we deduce, any language in the statute that would require appointed alienists to be completely independent of the proceedings. In fact, because the statute explicitly requires that the mental health experts not be involved in the current treatment, it can be fairly inferred that the legislature anticipated that an alienist who had testified previously could appropriately be called later to testify as to competency as long as the alienist was not currently treating the accused.

2. Compliance with Statutory Timetable

¶33 Defendant next contends that the trial court did not allow

sufficient time for receipt and consideration of the court-appointed alienists' written reports. Specifically, he asserts that the trial court's failure to follow the statutory timetable set forth in section 77-15-5(9) denied him his right to due process and equal protection of the law guaranteed by article I, sections 7 and 24 of the Utah Constitution and the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution because there was insufficient time for his experts to prepare a response before they were called upon to testify.

¶34 Section 77-15-5(9) provides in pertinent part that "[w]hen the report is received the court shall set a date for a mental hearing which shall be held in not less than five and not more than 15 days .... " Although it is not clear from the face of the record when defense counsel received them, all four of the State's witnesses' written reports were filed with the district court on the afternoon of March 13, 1996.[9] The competency hearing was held the next day.

¶35 Conducting the hearing less than five days after receipt of the reports by the court and counsel was error and not in compliance with the requirements of section 75-15-5(9).

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[9]We note that Drs. Groesbeck and Howell, witnesses for the defense, did not submit written reports to the court. Defendant petitioned to have both of them testify as to competency without written reports. The State agreed to such a procedure. Under the "invited error" doctrine, we have held repeatedly that a party cannot on appeal "take advantage of an error committed at trial when that party led the trial court into committing the error." See State v. Dunn, 850 P.2d 1201, 1220 (Utah 1993); State v. Tillman, 750 P.2d 546, 560-61)Utah 1987) ("Tillman I"). If anything, defendant received an advantage because the State's experts did not have an opportunity to review the defense's reports before they gave their testimony.

However, "[a]n erroneous decision by a trial court ~cannot result in reversible error unless the error is harmful.'" State v. Robertson, 932 P.2d 1219, 1227 (Utah 1997) (quoting State v. Hamilton, 827 P.2d 232, 240 (Utah 1992)). An error is harmful if it undermines our confidence in the verdict; if, minus that error, there is a sufficiently high likelihood of a different outcome. See id. (citing Hamilton, 827 P.2d at 240). "The burden of showing harmfulness rests on the complaining party." Id.; see also State v. Bishop, 753 P.2d 439, 448 (Utah 1988) ("Bishop II") overruled on other grounds by State v.Menzies, 889 P.2d 393 (Utah 1994) ("Menzies II") (holding that "appellant has the burden of establishing that reversible error resulted from an abuse of discretion"); Ashton v. Ashton, 733 P.2d 147, 154 (Utah 1987).

¶36 Defendant has not presented any evidence that such a reversible error has occurred. At no time during the competency hearing did he assert that the hearing schedule did not allow sufficient time. In fact, both defendant and the State, by their actions, consented to the procedure. Regardless, we do not believe that any additional time would have changed the outcome of the hearing. Eight alienists reported their current findings as to defendant's competency at the hearing. All eight observed defendant prior to the March 14 hearing and testified in earlier competency determinations. Defendant petitioned the court to allow his witness, Dr. Groesbeck, to testify at a date previous to the actual competency hearing and without a written report. All of the alienists testified consistently with their earlier opinions in this case, except for Dr. Heinbecker, one of defendant's own alienists, who testified that he felt he needed more time to observe defendant before making a determination. Each alienist testified in depth, and both the State and the

defense were given ample opportunity to cross-examine.

¶37 While we hold that the competency hearing held fewer than five days after receiving the written reports was a technical violation of the statute, it constituted harmless error and in no way undermines our confidence in the verdict.

3. Content of Reports

¶38 Defendant also contends that the experts' reports did not address the specific items required by section 77-15-5(4), which governs the scope of an expert's examination and report to the court in a competency hearing. Section 77-15-5(4) provides:

> The experts shall in the conduct of their examination and in their report to the court consider and address, in addition to any other factors determined to be relevant by the experts:
>
> (a) the defendant's present capacity to:
>
> (i) comprehend and appreciate the charges or allegations against him;
>
> (ii) disclose to counsel pertinent facts, events, and states of mind;
>
> (iii) comprehend and appreciate the range and nature of possible penalties, if applicable, that may be imposed in the proceedings against him;

(iv) engage in reasoned choice of legal strategies and options;

(v) understand the adversary nature of the proceedings against him;

(vi) manifest appropriate courtroom behavior; and

(vii) testify relevantly, if applicable;

(b) the impact of the mental disorder, or mental retardation, if any, on the nature and quality of the defendant's relationship with counsel;

(c) if psychoactive medication is currently being administered:

(i) whether the medication is necessary to maintain the defendant's competency; and

(ii) the effect of the medication, if any, on the defendant's demeanor and affect and ability to participate in the proceedings.

¶39 We first note that because defendant chose not to testify at trial, subsection 77-15-5(4) (a) (vii) was irrelevant. Similarly, because psychoactive medication was not being administered at the time, the experts were under no obligation to examine or discuss the factors mentioned under section 77-15-5(4) (c). However, the experts were required to "consider and address" the other factors in their reports to the court.

¶40 After careful examination of the reports submitted to the trial court, we hold that any omission in the reports was harmless error. While the experts may not have used identical terminology to that set forth in the statute, their reports and testimonies at the competency hearing did in fact discuss each of the factors in the statute.

¶41 Specifically, we find that the written reports of Drs. Washburn, Golding, and Cohn clearly discussed all the factors set forth in section 77-15-5(4). Dr. Gardner's report, while less specific in its discussion of the statutory factors, set forth sufficient additional background to substantiate such determinations. Drs. Groesbeck and Howell did not submit written reports. However, they testified specifically, and to our satisfaction, as to each of these factors at the competency hearing. Drs. Wootton and Heinbecker, whose reports were less involved than some of the other experts', gave accompanying testimony at the competency hearing that specifically addressed any remaining factors absent from their reports. Additionally, the trial court had the benefit of years of reports, data, professional observations and opinions, prior judicial rulings concerning competency, medical and mental health records, psychiatric and psychological testing data, and lay observations and testimony.

¶42 Thus, while the written reports did not all address the factors specifically mentioned in section 77-15-5(4), we hold that in conjunction with the testimony offered at the competency hearing, all the statutory factors were considered and addressed by each expert. Although there may have been a violation of the statute, an erroneous decision by a trial court "'cannot result in reversible error unless the error is harmful.'" Robertson, 932 P.2d at 1227 (quoting Hamilton, 827 P.2d at 240). Defendant has not been prejudiced.

4. Interviews as Bases for Evaluation

¶43 Finally, defendant argues that the competency examinations based on interviews alone were insufficient to determine defendant's mental state and ability to stand trial. He contends that because of the shortened time frame, the alienists were not able to perform certain tests that might otherwise have been considered in the determination. However, the statute does not contain any requirements for an "examination." The statute simply states that the defendant "shall be examined by at least two mental heath experts." 77-15-5(2)(b). Thus, we must determine the meaning of "examination" under our statute.

¶44 When interpreting statutes, we first look to their plain language. See Valcarce v. Fitzgerald, 961 P.2d 305, 318(Utah 1998); Chris & Dick's Lumber & Hardware v. Tax Comm'n, 791 P.2d 511, 514 (Utah 1990). To examine is to "determine the aptitude, qualifications, or skills of by questions or exercises," or "[t]o question formally." Webster's II New Colleqe Dictionary 390 (1995). In this case, defendant was interviewed and questioned formally. We hold that when

defendant was interviewed by eight alienists, the statute requiring "examination" was fulfilled.

B. Competency Determination

¶45 Defendant next contends that the trial court's finding that he was competent to stand trial was error. He asserts that the opinions offered by the State's expert witnesses were not supported by the evidence and were inconsistent with each other. A trial court's factual findings will not be overturned unless they are clearly erroneous. See Lafferty I, 749 P.2d at 1244; State v. Woodland, 945 P.2d 665, 667-68 (Utah 1997). We give deference to the trial court's factual findings because of its superior position to assess credibility. See State v. Menzies, 845 P.2d 220, 226-27 (Utah 1992) ("Menzies I"); State v. Goodman, 763 P.2d 786, 788 (Utah 1988). Defendant must "marshal the evidence in a light most favorable to the findings of the trial court and show that evidence to be insufficient." Woodland, 945 P.2d at 668.

¶46 Defendant asserts there was adequate evidence to demonstrate he was suffering from mental illness at the time of the trial. Written and oral testimony was received to the effect that defendant believed in the presence of "travelers," or spirit beings that could inhabit living persons. He claimed that these travelers, homosexual in nature, had the power to exude evil and "invade people through the rear," and that these travelers had inhabited many people involved in his trial, including Judge Hansen, the prosecutors, his counsel, and the jurors and witnesses. Defendant contended that he was a good traveler trapped inside a physical body. He believed he was able to form a spiritual aura around himself, some sort of "reflector shield,"

that allowed him to defend himself from evil. He claimed he could discern the presence of travelers, that he had been attacked by them both physically and spiritually, and that he could use verbal and physical outbursts to nullify and confuse the evil they exude. He explained that acting out in court deflected the evil spirits. Defendant stated that he was involved in "spiritual warfare" against the powers of evil and claimed to have powers not possessed by normal persons to fight such evil.

¶47 After considering all evidence presented by the defense, and after the March 14 competency hearing, Judge Hansen handed down a detailed memorandum decision and thorough findings of fact regarding defendant's competency to stand trial. Having correctly applied the test for competency as it is set forth in Dusky v. United States, 362 U.S. 402 (1960) (per curiam), and reiterated in Lafferty II, 949 F.2d at 1550, and after carefully considering the opinions of each of the eight expert witnesses, the trial court found that defendant was not delusional and did not at the time suffer from a mental illness that would prevent him from rationally participating in his defense. The court found that although defendant attached peculiar labels to his religious and political beliefs, his "ideas were developed through a rationally explained process" and "drawn from his real experiences in a reality based way."

¶48 In his memorandum decision, Judge Hansen addressed the testimony given by each expert, pointed to each opinion's strengths and weaknesses, and concluded that defendant was competent to stand trial. The court found Drs. Gardner, Golding, Cohn, and Wootton to be particularly persuasive. The State's experts supported their conclusions that defendant was competent to stand trial with specific examples drawn from their

experiences with and interviews of him. They gave credible and persuasive explanations for defendant's beliefs and demonstrated convincingly how defendant's background and upbringing contributed to his current state. All of these experts testified that defendant was grounded in reality. Dr. Gardner was able to specifically help the court by addressing the competency standard as enunciated in Lafferty II and by providing examples in explaining his determination that defendant was competent. He testified many of defendant's beliefs could be explained by his religious background. He also testified that defendant became angry at times with the trial court or examiners because of specific ideas or expressions he found insulting or upsetting, not because of a mental disorder. Dr. Golding testified that defendant's outbursts in court were voluntary acts intended to disrupt testimony and evidence against him. He testified that defendant was aware of the proceedings against him and demonstrated abilities inconsistent with mental illness. Dr. Cohn testified that defendant demonstrated characteristics that are incompatible with a finding of psychosis and that defendant's beliefs and experiences Were based in commonly held beliefs. Finally, Dr. Wootton testified that defendant's beliefs, although extreme, had a basis in his religious upbringing. He testified that defendant's so-called delusional ideas were actually metaphors for rational thought processes. For example, defendant's in-court verbal outbursts, which he termed "reflector shields," were his way to disrupt perceived inaccuracies at trial.

¶49 Judge Hansen also stated his reasons for giving less credence to witnesses called by the defense. He pointed out that Dr. Groesbeck's and Dr. Washburn's opinions, though the most persuasive of the defense's experts, were conclusory and lacked sufficient analysis and detail to support their opinions. "A finder

of fact, whether judge or jury, is free to reject diagnoses and conclusions that are not adequately explained." Lafferty I, 749 P.2d at 1245. In addition, Judge Hansen noted that Dr. Heinbecker could not determine whether defendant was malingering to avoid trial or was indeed delusional. He gave even less weight to Dr. Howell who, by his own admission, testified that at previous competency hearings specifically regarding defendant, he had testified and submitted written reports contrary to his own personal analysis and "caved in" to pressure from other examiners.

¶50 The court also stated its observations of defendant during the pretrial proceedings. Judge Hansen indicated that defendant was appropriate, polite, and cooperative during the competency hearings and that he was able to respond appropriately to various situations and events. The court noted, "He exhibits interpersonal relatedness, warmth, reason, linear thought, and a lively sense of humor."

¶51 Defendant's actions and ideas are no doubt extreme. However, "competency is established when a defendant can, but not necessarily will, assist or consult with counsel." Woodland, 945 P.2d at 668 (citing Lafferty I, 749 P.2d at 1243). We hold that there was ample evidence to support the trial court's finding of competency. We have carefully reviewed the arguments in defendant's brief, his motion in opposition to removing him from the courtroom, the testimony and written reports of the experts offered at the competency hearings of March 8 and 14, 1996, and Judge Hansen's memorandum decision. While we do not set forth each of defendant's extensive assertions here, the trial court's findings were not clearly erroneous. See Utah R. Civ. P. 52(a). The fact that the findings of Judge Hansen in the 1996

competency hearing were different from those of Judge Ballif in the 1992 hearing does not undermine the 1996 competency determination.

C. Motion for New Trial

¶52 Finally, defendant contends that denial of his motion for anew trial was error. On April 9, 1996, two weeks into trial, defense counsel spoke with the court in chambers about an alleged deterioration in defendant's behavior. At that time, defense counsel elected not to seek court action, but decided to continue their efforts to keep defendant from prejudicing his case. However, after the verdict and penalty hearing, defendant moved for a new trial on the ground that he was incompetent during the trial. The motion was supported by affidavits of his counsel, paralegals and externs involved with the trial, and Dr. Breck J. Lebegue. The affidavits averred that defendant did not rationally understand the trial proceedings or appreciate the seriousness of his situation. Defendant's counsel stated in their brief:

> [Defendant] was not always attentive to what was going on in the courtroom, what the witnesses were relating nor did he evidence the demeanor of a person on trial for his life. To the contrary, the defendant often discussed mundane topics and religious concepts with those sitting next to him. He would at times focus on a particular thought and begin concentrating on writing some comment on a legal pad. Ofttimes these comments were unrelated to anything going on in the courtroom.

¶53 Defense counsel point to many specific incidents of peculiar behaviors they assert were probative of defendant's incompetency during trial. Defendant allegedly heard a buzzing sound and claimed that at times it prevented him from hearing what was going on in court; he suggested defense counsel bring a dog into the courtroom to detect the high-pitched noise. Defense counsel submitted that defendant would quickly forget discussions of legal issues and options and would have to be reminded repeatedly of the decisions before him. Counsel also submits that defendant's concept of double jeopardy prevented him from understanding that the court had jurisdiction to hear his case again. Similarly, counsel presented affidavits averring that defendant had to be distracted by a paralegal or an extern during trial to avoid inappropriate outbursts. In the opinion of his counsel, defendant was physically present in the courtroom but was not a part of the proceedings in any rational meaningful manner and did not assist his counsel in his defense.

¶54 Defendant asserts that under Pate v. Robinson, 383 U.S. 375 (1966), he had a due process right to a hearing to inquire into his competence when evidence of incompetency became manifest during trial. In order to trigger a new review of defendant's competency, there must be a bona fide doubt as to defendant's competency to stand trial. See §77-15-5(1). "'[W]hen a competency hearing has already been held and defendant has been found competent to stand trial a trial court need not suspend proceedings to conduct a second competency hearing unless it is presented with a substantial change of circumstances or with new evidence casting a serious doubt on the validity of that finding.'" People v. Kelly, 822 P.2d 385, 412 (Cal. 1992) (citation omitted). The decision to conduct yet another hearing is "in the sound discretion of the trial court" and

depends on the "showing made, and the length of time elapsed from the prior psychiatric examination." United States v. Cook, 418 F.2d 321, 324 (9th Cir. 1969). In Drope v. Missouri, 420 U.S. 162 (1975), the Supreme Court held that "evidence of a defendant's irrational behavior, his demeanor at trial, and any prior medical opinion on competence to stand trial are all relevant in determining whether further inquiry is required." Id. at 180.

¶55 After our own review of the affidavits offered in support of defendant's motion for a new trial, we conclude that the observations described in the affidavits do not raise new questions from those already determined in the March 1996 competency hearing prior to trial. The affidavits of Dr. Lebegue, defense counselors Michael D. Esplin and Linda Anderson, extern Krista Stone, and legal assistant Alicia G. Head failed to raise any new issues regarding defendant's competency. First, Dr. Lebegue did not observe defendant during trial. His observations were based on his review of transcripts, interviews with defense counsel, and an interview with defendant after the trial. The value of this type of retrospective evaluation of competency has been questioned by the Supreme Court. See Dusky, 362 U.S. at 403. Regardless, the types of behavior attested to in the affidavits were those previously discussed in the competency hearing: religious delusions, impaired concentration and ability to cooperate with counsel, irrational behavior, double jeopardy concerns, inability to prepare or present a defense, denial of evidence against him, the presence of travelers, inability to remember prior strategy discussions, auditory hallucinations, inappropriate emotional reactions, and a grandiose belief in his own personal power. We agree with the trial court that "these documents simply demonstrated that new

people observed the same type of behavior already considered and ruled upon by the court."

¶56 Second, the trial court had considerable opportunity to observe defendant during jury voir dire and at trial. It observed that defendant consulted with counsel and reacted to statements of witnesses and other evidence presented. The guilt phase of the trial was completed within a month of the competency hearing. The trial court found that "[j]ust because Defendant confirmed the evidence some examiners concluded was indicative of mental illness, and which was considered at the competency hearing, [that] does not constitute new evidence that should have caused the Court to stay the proceedings to revisit the competency issue, nor does it now merit a new trial."

¶57 Section 77-15-5(1) requires that a competency hearing be held only when the court finds bona fide doubt as to a defendant's competency. That was not the case here. Defendant did not raise a bona fide doubt about his competency at any time during the trial after the initial competency hearing, or in his motion for a new trial. We therefore affirm the trial court's denial of defendant's motion for a new trial.

II. CHALLENGE FOR CAUSE

¶58 Defendant next challenges the trial court's granting the State's challenge for cause of Juror 220. The law governing challenges for cause is rule 18(e) (10) of the Utah Rules of Criminal Procedure, which provides:

> (e) The challenge for cause is an objection to a particular juror and may be taken on one or more

of the following grounds:

> (10) if the offense charged is punishable with death, the entertaining of such conscientious opinions about the death penalty as would preclude the juror from voting to impose the death penalty following conviction regardless of the facts.

Thus, the prosecution may challenge potential jurors who would be unable to impose the death penalty, see State v. Young, 853 P.2d 327, 387 n.8 (Utah 1993) (citing Witherspoon v. Illinois, 391 U.S. 510, 513-14, 522 n.21 (1968); Wainwright v. Witt, 469 U.S. 412, 424 (1985)), as well as those potential jurors whose "views would 'prevent or substantially impair the performance of his duties as a juror in accordance with his instructions and his oath,'" Lockhart v. McCree, 476 U.S. 162, 166 n.1 (1986) (quoting Wainwright, 469 U.S. at 433); State v. Norton, 675 ?.2d 577, 589 (Utah 1983), overruled on other grounds by State v. Hansen, 734 P.2d 421 (Utah 1986)); Adams v. Texas, 448 U.S. 38, 45 (1980). We review the trial court's dismissal for cause under an abuse of discretion standard. See State v. Archuleta, 850 P.2d 1232, 1240 (Utah), cert. denied, 510 U.S. 979 (1993). We hold that the trial court did not abuse its discretion in striking Juror 220 for cause. In so holding, we look to the entire voir dire exchange with the challenged juror. See Young, 853 P.2d at 343.

¶59 First, we review Juror 220's written responses to the preliminary juror questionnaire. In the questionnaire, when asked whether she was willing to accept the law applicable to the case

regardless of her personal feelings, Juror 220 replied that she could. She was then informed that if defendant was found guilty of first degree murder, he could be sentenced to life imprisonment or death. When asked whether she felt the penalty was too severe if defendant was in fact convicted, she responded, "No." When asked her feelings about the death penalty, she responded that "two wrongs [d]on't make a right" and that we "should not" have the death penalty. She indicated that if the State had met its burden, she could vote to impose the death sentence. Yet when asked her feelings about sitting on a jury that potentially would have to consider the death penalty, she wrote, "[I]t would be hard because what right [d]o I have to say the [g]uy [d]eserves [d]eath."

¶60 Juror 220 was examined further during voir dire. She stated:

> I don't know, I just don't like the death penalty. I am not saying it's right for someone to go kill anyone, or anything like that. But what's it going to prove, you know? .... What right do I have? You know, for anyone. I mean, it would be just like me, do I have the right to say anyone deserves to die today? I don't have that right.

The prosecutor then asked whether she could ever vote in favor of the death penalty if the State was able to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the aggravating circumstances warranted it. She responded, "I don't think so." When asked if that was 100 percent of the time, she said, "100 percent, right now, yes."

¶61 The following exchange then took place between defense counsel and Juror 220:

Q: [Y]our answers on the questions previously in the questionnaire, I think, would indicate a very open-minded and fair approach . . .in all regards, and I guess it's kind of unusual for me to be asking the questions I'm going to be asking here since I am a defense attorney, but what's important if you're so committed and so dug into a particular position that you just can't feel that you could be open minded about the--any proposition, and in this particular case, obviously, it's going to be the imposition of the death penalty, or whether or not you could fairly keep an open mind and listen and judge the evidence that's presented to you and make a determination at that point in time? Do you think you could do that?

A: I don't think so, because I am really deadlocked on it. I know I'm open minded and stuff like that, but the death penalty is--in my mind--is barbaric.

Q: If you were to take a few minutes--it probably isn't a pleasant thought--is there a set of circumstances or facts that you could think of that would be just so heinous, so bad, so awful, whatever, that you could consider the imposition of the death penalty?

A: Not unless a murder of my family member, possibly.

Q: So when you said, in answer to Mr. Horton's question, that it was a 100 percent--

A: Yeah.

Q: [I]t's not really 100 percent?

A: Yeah. Thinking about it, yeah, because if my son, or my brothers--I would have to look and weigh the evidence and stuff like that.

The prosecutor then questioned again:

Q: I am trying to get at whether there are any other cases you could think of where you could fairly say you might impose the death penalty, or do you still think that you don't have the right to decide whether another person should die?

A: On my part, no, I don't still have the right, you know, but if it was my son, you know, somebody else would have to be the jurors, but I don't think I could.

¶62 We believe Juror 220 clearly expressed her feelings that she could not impose the death penalty under any situation in which she would be qualified to sit as a juror.

¶63 We recognize that not all who oppose the death penalty are subject to removal for cause in capital cases. "[T]hose who firmly believe that the death penalty is unjust may nevertheless serve as jurors in capital cases so long as they state clearly that they are willing to temporarily set aside their own beliefs in deference to the rule of law." Lockhart, 476 U.S. at 176. similarly, the Supreme Court in Witherspoon, 391 U.S. at 522 n.21 held that "veniremen . . .cannot be excluded for cause simply because they indicate that there are some kinds of cases in which they would refuse to recommend capital punishment.

And a prospective juror cannot be expected to say in advance of trial whether he would in fact vote for the extreme penalty in the case before him."

¶64 However, that is not the case here. Because of Juror 220's refusal to impose the death penalty under any but the most narrow of circumstances, the trial court's decision to dismiss her for cause was not an abuse of discretion and was in fact in line with the policy enunciated in our case law. We therefore affirm the trial court's removal of Juror 220 from the jury venire.

III. CONSTITUTIONALITY OF UTAH'S INSANITY DEFENSE

¶65 Defendant contends that Utah's insanity defense as set forth in section 76-2-305 of the Utah Code violates the cruel and unusual punishment provisions of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution and article I, section 9 of the Utah Constitution. He asserts that as shown by the facts of this case, he suffered from a mental illness at the time of the offense. He contends that the illness impaired his capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of his conduct and made him unable to distinguish between right and wrong or conform his conduct to the requirements of the law. At the close of the trial, the jury was given instructions regarding the defenses of insanity, diminished capacity, and guilty and mentally ill. The jury returned a verdict of guilty as charged on all counts, with no exception for mental illness.

¶66 The Utah insanity statute provides:

> It is a . . .defense to a prosecution under any

> statute that the defendant, as a result of mental illness, lacked the mental state required as an element of the offense charged. Mental illness is not otherwise a defense.

Utah Code Ann. 76-2-305(1) (1995). This statute limits the insanity defense to negating the mens rea element of an offense necessary for conviction.[10] See State v. Mace, 921 P.2d 1372, 1376 (Utah 1996); State v. Herrera, 895 P.2d 359, 361-62 (Utah 1995) ("Herrera I"); State v. Young, 853 P.2d 327, 383 (Utah 1993). Whether a statutory scheme conforms with state and federal constitutional provisions is a question of law. See State v. Herrera, 1999 UT 64, 9 18, 993 P.2d 854 ("Herrera II"); State v. Gardner, 947 P.2d 630, 632 (Utah 1997) ("Gardner III"). Thus, we accord no deference to the trial court's rulings but review them for correctness. See Herrera II, 1999 UT 64 at 9 18; Gardner III, 947 P.2d at 632. Upon such a constitutional challenge, we will construe legislation to the extent possible as being in compliance with both the federal and state constitutions. See Herrera II, 1999 UT 64 at 9 18; State v. Mohi, 901 P.2d 991, 995 (Utah 1995); Soc'y of Separationists,Inc. v. Whitehead, 870 P.2d 916, 920 (Utah 1993). As we have stated:

> "In assessing a punishment selected by a democratically elected legislature against the constitutional measure, we presume its validity. We may not require the legislature to select the least severe penalty possible so long as the penalty selected is not cruelly inhumane or disproportionate to the crime involved. And a heavy

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[10]Although this is not currently the state of the law, it was this version that was in effect at the time of the crime.

burden rests on those who would attack the judgment of the representatives of the people."

Andrews v. Morris, 607 P.2d 816, 824 (Utah 1980) ("Andrews I") (quoting Gregg v. Georgia, 428 U.S. 153, 175 (1976)) Defendant challenges both the statute on its face and the statute's application to him.

A. Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution

¶67 Defendant contends that section 76-2-305 on its face and as applied to him violates federal due process and equal protection. To succeed on these claims, he must demonstrate that rights secured to him by the federal Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses have been violated by his conviction and sentence for the offenses at issue. See Herrera II, 1999 UT 64 at ¶ 20.

1. Due Process

¶68 The Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment provides that no state shall "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." U.S. Const. amend XIV, ¶ 1. In challenging the application of the statute, defendant contends it is implicit in the concept of ordered liberty that criminal responsibility not be imposed on him for the murders when as a result of his mental illness at the time, he could not understand the wrongfulness of his conduct. We again cite our decision in Herrera II, where we clearly held that "there is no federal due process right to any particular insanity defense." 1999 UT 64 at 9 22, 993 P.2d 854 (citing Herrera I, 895 P.2d at

364). Defendant fails to specify "any constitutionally recognized liberty interest or other due process protection that secures to him the right to be found not guilty by reason of insanity" when a jury found he plotted and participated in the murders of Brenda and Erica Lafferty. Id. at 9 22. Thus, this claim fails.

¶69 Defendant next offers a facial challenge to the statute, contending that it allows persons who suffer from some degree of mental illness and diminished capacity, and who cannot appreciate the wrongfulness of their conduct and conform it to the requirements of the law, to be punished. However, we have held in the past that section 76-2-305, on its face, does not violate federal due process or equal protection. See, e.g., Herrera II, 1999 UT 64 at 9 19, 993 P.2d 854; Herrera I, 895 P.2d at 363-69. "States are free to recognize and define the insanity defense as they see fit." Foucha v. Louisiana, 504 U.S. 71, 96 (1992) (Kennedy, J., dissenting on other grounds). We have consistently held that "the common law and our basic principles of ordered liberty are not offended by the mens rea model." Herrera I, 895 P.2d at 366 (citing State v. Korell, 690 P.2d 992, 1002 (Mont. 1984)). We see no reason to alter our analysis of these issues, and we therefore hold that the trial court correctly denied these claims.

2. Equal Protection

¶70 The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that no state shall "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." U.S. Const. amend. XIV, ¶ 1. Thus, state laws must "treat similarly situated people alike unless a reasonable basis exists for treating them differently." Herrera II,

1999 UT 64 at 9 25, 993 P.2d 854; Malan v. Lewis, 693 P.2d 661, 669 (Utah 1984) (holding that "persons in different circumstances should not be treated as if their circumstances were the same").

¶71 Defendant, however, has failed to identify how the statute violates any fundamental right or makes determinations based on any suspect classification, nor can we determine any such violation as applied to defendant or on its face. A similar claim was made and rejected in Herrera II. We held there that section 76-2-305 need be only rationally related to a valid public purpose because Herrera could not identify any violation of a fundamental right or action based on a suspect classification. See Herrera II, 1999 UT 64 at 9 26, 993 P.2d 854. We noted in Herrera II that in enacting the statute governing the insanity defense, the legislature sought to "advance a valid public purpose, i.e., to limit the scope of the insanity defense and reduce the number of criminally culpable offenders avoiding criminal punishment." Id. at 9 27. We further held that the legislature acted reasonably when it drew a line between groups of offenders to achieve its stated purpose. See id. We see no reason to reject our prior reasoning; therefore, we deny defendant's equal protection claim under the Fourteenth Amendment.

B. Eighth Amendment and Article I, Section 9 Prohibitions Against Cruel and Unusual Punishment

¶72 We next address defendant's assertion that section 77-2-305, both on its face and as applied to him, violates federal and state guarantees against cruel and unusual punishment because it allows for imposing punishment on mentally ill but not legally

insane offenders. We will first address the constitutionality of the statute as it applies to defendant. This approach is consistent with our preference for examining the constraints of Utah's cruel and unusual punishment clause on a case-by-case basis. See Mace, 921 P.2d at 1376; State v. Bishop, 717 P.2d 261, 267 (Utah 1986) ("Bishop I").

¶73 Defendant contends that the death sentence he received for two counts of murder is cruel and unusual as applied to him. Article I, section 9 of the Utah Constitution provides:

> Excessive bail shall not be required; excessive fines shall not be imposed; nor shall cruel and unusual punishments be inflicted. Persons arrested or imprisoned shall not be treated with unnecessary rigor.

We have held that the last sentence makes section 9 broader than its federal counterpart. See Bishop I, 717 P.2d at 267. Article I, section 9 is also a self-executing provision that prohibits specific evils that can be remedied without implementing legislation. See Bott v. DeLand, 922 P.2d 732, 737 (Utah 1996), overruled in part on other grounds by Spackman v. Bd. of Educ. of Box Elder County Sch. Dist., 2000 UT 87, _____ P.3d _____. A criminal punishment is cruel and unusual under article I, section 9 if it is "so disproportionate to the offense committed that it 'shock[s] the moral sense of all reasonable men as to what is right and proper under the circumstances.'" "Herrera II, 1999 UT 64 at 9 33, 993 P.2d 854 (alteration in original) (quoting Gardner III, 947 P.2d at 633 (internal citation omitted)); see also State v. Copeland, 765 P.2d 1266, 1270 (Utah 1988).

¶74 The jury clearly found that defendant possessed the necessary mens rea when he plotted and participated in the murders of Brenda and Erica Lafferty. Therefore, he did not qualify for the defense of insanity under section 76-2-305. Defendant's own experts testified that even though they believed defendant was mentally ill at the time of the murders, he was capable of forming the requisite intent to kill, and that while his ability to control his actions may have been impaired, it was not nonexistent. We have also upheld the finding that defendant was competent to stand trial. Regardless, imposing punishment on one who is to some degree mentally ill but not legally insane is not cruel and unusual punishment.

> This court has already held that a defendant who does not qualify as legally insane under the Utah statutory scheme may be charged, tried, and convicted without offending state or federal due process and equal protection guarantees. It would be anomalous, if not irrational, for this court to hold . . .that the legislature can constitutionally hold such defendants accountable for their criminal conduct but cannot constitutionally impose any punishment on such defendants.

Mace, 921 P.2d at 1377 (citation omitted). "[A]bsent a showing that a particular punishment is 'cruelly inhumane or disproportionate,' we are not apt to substitute our judgment for that of the legislature regarding the wisdom of a particular punishment or of an entire sentencing scheme." Id. at 1377-78 (citations omitted). Mace was decided under the Eighth Amendment, but applies with equal force to its state counterpart. See Herrera II, 1999 UT 64 at 9 38, 993 P.2d 854. Thus, an offender who acted with the required mens rea and was not

legally insane at the time of the crime may be punished criminally unless the sentence itself is found to be cruel and unusual. See Mace, 921 P.2d at 1377-78.

¶75 Defendant has failed to demonstrate that the punishment imposed on him is cruelly inhumane or disproportionate to the crimes committed. Defendant plotted the deaths of Brenda and Erica Lafferty, the wife and baby daughter of his younger brother Allen, and then participated in beating Brenda and slitting her throat to the spinal column, and in slitting the throat of Erica to the spinal column. The jury was allowed to consider all of defendant's defenses in contemplating the death penalty, including his assertions that he was mentally ill at the time of the offenses. We do not believe that defendant's sentence compared to the offense "shock[s] the moral sense of all reasonable men as to what is right and proper under the circumstances." Copeland, 765 P.2d at 1270. We therefore reject defendant's claim that the sentence he received constituted cruel and unusual punishment under article I, section 9 of the Utah Constitution.

¶76 Defendant next challenges the statute as applied to him under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Eighth Amendment, which applies to the states through the operation of the Fourteenth Amendment, provides: "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted." U.S. Const. amend. VIII. While the analytical framework of what constitutes cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment continues to evolve, the underlying principle remains fundamentally the same: "[C]riminal punishments are prohibited if they are excessive or contravene evolving standards of decency and human dignity." Herrera II, 1999 UT 64 at 9 46; see also Gardner III, 947 P.2d

at 649. "A criminal punishment may be cruel and unusual when it is barbaric, excessive, or disproportional to the offense committed." Mace, 921 P.2d at 1377 (footnote omitted).

¶77 We hold that the reasons already expressed for upholding defendant's sentence under article I, section 9 of the Utah Constitution support the same conclusion under the Eighth Amendment. Defendant's sentence is not cruelly inhumane, excessive, or disproportionate in any manner compared to the crimes he committed. As such, his Eighth Amendment claim fails as well.

¶78 Finally, defendant contends that section 77-2-305 on its face violates the Eighth Amendment and article I, section 9 of the Utah Constitution. A facial challenge can succeed, however, only when the statute at issue is incapable of any valid application. See Herrera II, 1999 UT 64 at 9 50, 993 P.2d 854; Greenwood v. North Salt Lake, 817 P.2d 816, 819 (Utah 1991). Because we have already upheld the validity of section 77-2-305 as applied to defendant, his facial challenge must fail a fortiori. See Herrera II, 1999 UT 64 at 9 50, 993 P.2d 854.

IV. VICTIM IMPACT EVIDENCE

¶79 Defendant next contends that certain comments made by the prosecutor in his closing statements and the admission of a black and white videotape in the penalty phase depicting the crime scene and showing the body of Erica Lafferty were victim impact evidence and should have been excluded.

A. Videotape and Prosecutor's Statements as Victim Impact Evidence

1. Videotape

¶80 First, plaintiff contends that the admission of a videotape of the crime scene during the penalty phase of the trial showing the body of Erica Lafferty constituted victim impact evidence and should have been excluded under Utah Code Ann. § 76-3-207 (1995).[11] He asserts that because the videotape demonstrated the victim's youth and circumstances surrounding her death, it was victim impact evidence.[12] He charges that showing the videotape was an attempt to enrage and impassion the jury against him and was not, as the State contends, a mere showing of the crime scene. We disagree.

¶81 In State v. Carter, 888 P.2d 629 (Utah 1995), we stated that "victim impact evidence in capital cases applies to evidence of the victim's character, evidence of the effects of the crime on the surviving members of the family, and evidence of the surviving members' opinions of the crime." Id. at 653 (finding comments of a murder victim's husband about the impact of his wife's death on the family to be impermissible victim impact evidence);[13] see also Booth v. Maryland, 482 U.S. 496, 502 (1987), overruled on other

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[11]Under the current statute, victim impact evidence is admissible at the penalty phase of a trial. See Utah Code Ann. §76-3-207(2)(a)(iii) (1999). However, at the time of trial, victim impact evidence was inadmissible. Our review focuses on the law as it stood at the time of trial.

[12]Although the body of Brenda Lafferty also appeared on the videotape, it is not alleged as error on appeal.

[13]In Carter, this court held that victim impact evidence was admissible for purposes of §76-3-207(2). See id. At 653. The definition of victim impact evidence, however, has not changed.

grounds by Payne v. Tennessee, 501 U.S. 808, 830 (1991) (stating a victim impact statement "describe[s] the personal characteristics of the victims and the emotional impact of the crimes on the family . . .set[ting] forth the family members' opinions and characterizations of the crimes and the defendant"). Our inquiry, then, is whether the videotape constituted victim impact evidence.

¶82 The videotape in question showed (1) the living room with various items strewn about the floor and blood splattered on the wall; (2) the kitchen floor with the phone receiver dangling by its cord, a pillow on the floor, and Brenda's body as it was found; and (3) Erica's body as it was found in her crib. The videotape was of poor quality and in black and white, with parts of the tape intentionally blacked out. The entire videotape takes one minute and forty-seven seconds to view. Of that, Brenda's body is visible for eleven seconds, and Erica's for ten seconds. The bodies are neither shown close up nor dwelt upon. The fatal wounds are not visible.

¶83 We hold the videotape does not fit the definition of victim impact evidence. It in no way speaks to the victim's character, effects of the crime on the surviving family, or any opinions of the surviving members about the crime. On the contrary, it accurately and impartially portrays exactly what took place at the crime scene and is not unduly prejudicial. See State v. Brown, 607 P.2d 261, 266 (Utah 1980) (holding the court did not abuse its discretion by showing the jury a videotape of the crime scene). The videotape was demonstrative of the circumstances of the crime, of defendant's character, and of aggravating factors.

¶84 Section 76-3-207(2) clearly states that in sentencing proceedings, the defendant's character, background, history, mental

and physical condition, and any other facts in aggravation or mitigation of the penalty are proper inquiries. The aggravating circumstance presented by the State was the fact that the homicide was committed "incident to one act, scheme, course of conduct, or criminal episode during which two or more persons are killed." Utah Code Ann. § 76-5-202(1) (b) (1995). Clearly, the videotape is probative of the fact that the murders were committed incident to one criminal episode and that two persons were killed. The State may introduce evidence that may incidentally convey some victim impact when such evidence is admissible for other permissible purposes. See Carter, 888 P.2d at 652 n.37 (citing Sermons v. State, 417 S.E.2d 144, 146-47 (Ga. 1992)). Thus, we hold that the videotape does not constitute victim impact evidence, but demonstrates other permissible factors and was properly admitted at trial.

2. Prosecutor's Statements During Closing Arguments

¶85 Similarly, defendant contends that certain comments made by the State in its rebuttal argument were "designed to bring to the attention of the jurors the impact of the crime on the victim, Erica Lafferty, in such a fashion as to have them focus, not on the character and history of the defendant, but upon the circumstances of the victim." The comments defendant asserts were improperly admitted are as follows:

> Erica Lafferty, Brenda and Allen's daughter would have turned 13 years old this year; in fact, this month . . .When baby Erica showed up on this man's death list it told you more about his character than all the witnesses, all the friends and acquaintances, all the experts that the defense called on his behalf. It demonstrated a blatant and callous

> disregard for life, for innocent human life. And if for no other reason, justice demands that Erica's murder result in punishment, too. If you determine that the defendant deserves life without parole before we even consider Erica lying dead in her crib, before we ever consider that the second person he killed was a 15-month-old infant, then there's only one punishment left that is meaningful, and that is death.

¶86 To prevail on this claim, defendant must demonstrate that the remarks "'called to the jurors' attention matters which they would not be justified in considering in reaching a verdict.'" State v. Bakalov, 1999 UT 45, 9 56, 979 P.2d 799(quoting State v. Creviston, 646 P.2d 750, 754 (Utah 1982)). We have stated that "[s]ome facts about the victim, including those pertaining to his or her personal characteristics, may inevitably come out at trial, especially where such evidence is 'probative of critical aspects of the trial.'" Carter, 888 P.2d at 652 n.37 (citations omitted). The comments of the prosecutor did allude to some of Erica Lafferty's personal characteristics, such as Erica's age at the time of her death, how old she would have been at the time of trial, and that she died lying in her crib. The information does not, however, tell us about her character, the impact the death had on her family, or her family's opinions about the crime. Additionally, both of these details were already properly admitted at trial. A prosecutor has the right to draw inferences and use the information brought out at trial in his closing argument. See Bakalov, 1999 UT 45 at 9 56, 979 P.2d 799; State v. Dunn, 850 P.2d 1201, 1223 (Utah 1993). Thus, we hold that the prosecutor's comments did not constitute victim impact evidence.

¶87 However, even if these comments were to be seen as victim

impact evidence, error requires reversal only if prejudicial. "'An error is prejudicial only if we conclude that absent the error, there is a reasonable likelihood of a more favorable outcome for the defendant.'" Carter, 888 P.2d at 653 (quoting Lafferty I, 749 P.2d at 1255). In Carter, statements much more specific than those at hand, such as that the victim was "'*a* very, very particular housekeeper, very good mother, and a very hard working, graceful wife,'" 888 P.2d at 650, as well as evidence that the victim's son was experiencing difficulties at school since the murder, see id., were held to fall short of being prejudicial or unduly inflammatory, see 888 P.2d at 652. The comments in this case did not rise anywhere near the level of the comments in Carter. We therefore hold that the prosecutor's remarks did not constitute victim impact evidence.

B. Procedural or Substantive Nature of Amendment to Utah Code Ann. § 76-3-207

¶88 Defendant next argues that the trial court erred in applying the 1995 version of section 76-3-207 of the Utah Code instead of the 1984 version. In general, section 76-3-207 outlines the evidence that may be presented at the penalty phase of a capital proceeding. Prior to 1995, the statute did not specifically address the issue of victim impact evidence. The 1995 version, however, allows for evidence of the victim's character and the impact of the crime on the victim's family and community. See Utah Code Ann. § 76-3-207(2) (a) (iii) (1995). The trial court held that the changes in the 1995 version were only procedural changes and therefore should have a retroactive effect. See State v. Abeyta, 852 P.2d 993, 995 (Utah 1993) (holding that while amendments to statutes are generally considered to take effect prospectively, there is an exception for amendments that are procedural or remedial in

nature); Smith v. Cook, 803 P.2d 788, 792 (Utah 1990). Regardless, such a determination is unnecessary in this case because neither the videotape nor the prosecutor's statements constituted victim impact evidence.

C. Prosecutorial Misconduct in Violation of Stipulation

¶89 Prior to the penalty phase of the trial, defendant requested that the State be prevented from presenting victim impact evidence of Erica's personal characteristics or testimony as to the effect of the murders on the surviving family. The State agreed that it would not call Allen Lafferty or any members of Brenda Lafferty's family to discuss the effect of the murders on the family or their opinions of the case. Defendant argues, however, that the rebuttal comments constituted impermissible victim impact evidence and were so prejudicial as to deny defendant due process of law. Since we held above that the prosecutor's statements during rebuttal did not constitute victim impact evidence, the only remaining issue is whether those
comments were inflammatory and prejudicial, thus depriving defendant of a fair trial.

¶90 Although defendant failed to make contemporaneous objections to the prosecutor's allegedly improper comments, we have reviewed the record and find that the comments do not rise to the level of prosecutorial misconduct or warrant a reversal of defendant's conviction and sentence. As we stated in Tillman II:

> A prosecutor's actions and remarks constitute misconduct that merits reversal if the actions or remarks call to the attention of the jurors matters they would not be justified in considering in determining their verdict and, under the

> circumstances of the particular case, the error is substantial and prejudicial such that there is a reasonable likelihood that in its absence, there would have been a more favorable result for the defendant.

750 P.2d at 555; see also State v. Knight, 734 P.2d 913, 919 (Utah 1987); State v. Tucker, 727 P.2d 185, 187-88 (Utah 1986).

¶91 The specific comments defendant alleges were prejudicial were that Erica "would have turned 13 years old this year; in fact, this month" and that "[i]f you determine that the defendant deserves life without parole before we even consider Erica lying dead in her crib, before we ever consider that the second person he killed was a 15-month-old infant, then there's only one punishment left that is meaningful, and that is death."

¶92 We have difficulty understanding how this information could have prejudiced defendant. Merely repeating facts already brought out during trial in closing arguments is not prejudicial. "'Counsel for both sides have considerable latitude in their [closing] arguments to the jury; they have a right to discuss fully from their standpoints the evidence and the inferences and deductions arising therefrom.'" Lafferty I, 749 P.2d at 1255 (quoting State v. Valdez, 30 Utah 2d 54, 60, 513 P.2d 422, 426 (1973)). The prosecutor's statements were merely reiterations of facts in evidence and inferences drawn from them and would not have changed the outcome of the trial.

¶93 While we have a duty to safeguard the trial process from evidence that is unduly inflammatory, we will not deny the jury relevant evidence of what actually happened. The victim was an infant, and that is relevant to the jury's sentence. The fact that

Erica would have been thirteen-years old at the time of trial is easily discernible from the evidence presented at trial. The fact that she died lying in her crib is a fact, not prejudicial conjecture designed to inflame a jury. Thus, we hold the State did not commit prosecutorial misconduct or unduly inflame the jury through statements made during rebuttal.

D. Videotape and Prosecutor's Statements as Cruel and Unusual Punishment Under the Eighth Amendment

¶94 Defendant finally contends that the videotape and the prosecutor's statements constitute cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution and article I, section 9 of the constitution of the State of Utah because (1) the danger of inflaming the passions of the jury outweighed any relevant value; (2) the videotape was cumulative in light of the testimony of the police officers and the medical examiner; and (3) the only purpose for showing the videotape was to appeal to the passions of the jury and insure that defendant would receive the death penalty because one of the victims was an infant. However, defendant fails to offer any case law, citations, or analysis beyond what has been mentioned above as to how the admission of the videotape or statements could be considered cruel and unusual punishment.

¶95 Rule 24 of the Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure provides that the brief of the appellant "shall contain the contentions and reasons of the appellant with respect to the issues presented, including the grounds for reviewing any issue not preserved in the trial court, with citations to the authorities, statutes, and parts of the record relied on." Utah R. App. P. 24(a) (9). Generally, a contemporaneous objection or some

other form of preservation of a claimed error must be made part of the trial record before an appellate court can review such an error on appeal. See Tillman I, 750 P.2d at 551. "'[A] reviewing court is entitled to have the issues clearly defined with pertinent authority cited and is not simply a depository in which the appealing party may dump the burden of argument and research.'" State v. Thomas, 1999 UT 2, 9 11, 974 P.2d 269 (quoting Bishop II, 753 P.2d at 450). If the petitioner's brief does not comply with rule 24, it "may be disregarded or stricken, on motion or sua sponte by the court." Utah R. App. P. 24(j); see also State v. Helmick, 2000 UT 70, 9 7, 9 P.3d 164; MacKay v. Hardy, 973 P.2d 941, 948-49 (Utah 1998).

¶96 However, we review errors raised on appeal in death penalty cases, regardless of whether the error was objected to at trial or assigned as error on appeal. See Tillman I, 750 P.2d at 552. While doing so, "we do not abrogate a defendant's obligation or assume the role of an advocate by researching all applicable law and searching the entire record for each and every indication of possible or potential error." Id. To do so would impose an impossible burden on this court. Yet because of the grave and serious nature of the death penalty, we have the prerogative to correct sua sponte manifest and prejudicial errors not objected to at trial or assigned on appeal. See Id.

¶97 We do not perceive how admission of this evidence could have violate state and federal constitutional protections against cruel and unusual punishment in any way. The admission of the videotape was not an issue of state or federal constitutional protection, but rather an issue of evidentiary admissibility, which we have addressed above. The only other possible constitutional argument we can conjecture is the constitutionality of the death

penalty, which we address later in this opinion. Therefore, we hold that no state or federal constitutional violation has taken place because we see no plausible way the prosecutor's statements or the showing of the videotape could constitute cruel and unusual punishment.

V. STATEMENTS TO THE MEDIA

¶98 Defendant next challenges the admission of certain statements he made to the media. During the penalty phase, over the defense's objection, the prosecution was allowed to enter into evidence clips of two press conferences showing defendant and his brother Dan fielding questions from reporters about the crime. Defendant contends that the introduction of the clips constituted error because (1) the clips contained evidence of lack of remorse, which should not have been allowed without defendant first having offered evidence of remorse; (2) the clips were neither "relevant" nor "probative" of his current state of mind or of any other statutory factor upon which the jury could base its decision; (3) the clips were unduly prejudicial under rule 403 because they showed defendant in an orange jump suit and in custody of law enforcement officers; and (4) the jury may have found his attitude in the clips to be offensive. We review evidence admitted in the penalty phase of a trial for an abuse of discretion. See State v. Carter, 888 P.2d 629, 651 (Utah 1994).

A. Evidence of Lack of Remorse

¶99 First, defendant contends that his statements to the media should not have been admitted during the penalty phase because jurors could have interpreted his responses as lacking in remorse. Specifically, in a press conference held in September

1984, when asked whether he felt a great deal of remorse for his brother Allen, defendant replied, "A great deal of remorse? I can't say that I feel a great deal of remorse for my brother Allen, no." A reporter continued, "Having just lost his wife and child, he's got to be in a lot of inner turmoil. Do you feel sorry for him?" Defendant replied, "Well, I have compassion for him, yes. He's my brother, I love him . . .but life has to go on . . .You can't stop. We all have tribulation in our lives, and it's unfortunate, but it's part of the process." In the same press conference, defendant stated he wanted to clarify that the removal revelation was not his "hit list." He states that the revelation "does not command anyone take the life of anyone." He stated that the revelation

> names certain individuals [among them Brenda and Erica Lafferty] those individuals God said were in some way holding up the work, and don't ask me to clarify it, because I don't know the end result of it. You'll have to get on your knees and ask God [Defendant laughs] if you want to know the answer to that, and that's all I can really say about it.

The other clip at issue was from an October 1984 press conference and shows defendant matter-of-factly stating that the removal revelation was not directed to him or to Dan and that it did not specifically say "kill," but rather "remove."

¶100 Defendant asserts that because he did not affirmatively offer any evidence of remorse, the prosecution should not have been allowed to present evidence to the contrary. He cites several California cases holding that remorse is a mitigating factor, see People v. Davenport, 906 P.2d 1068, 1097 (Cal. 1995); People v. Crittenden, 885 P.2d 887, 925 (Cal. 1994); see

also People v. Dyer, 753 P.2d 1, 35 (Cal. 1988), and that evidence of lack of remorse should not be allowed unless the defendant produces evidence of remorse.

¶101 However, Utah law allows the prosecution to admit evidence of lack of remorse. Section 76-3-207(2) (a) of the Utah Code provides that in capital sentencing proceedings, evidence may be presented as to the defendant's character as well as any other facts relevant to aggravation or mitigation of the penalty. See Utah Code Ann. § 76-3-207(2) (a) (ii), (iv) (1995). In State v. Young, we held that "[a] jury may legitimately consider a defendant's character, future dangerousness, lack of remorse, and retribution in the penalty phase hearing." 853 P.2d 327, 353 (Utah 1993) (emphasis added).

¶102 Second, defendant asserts that we should analogize rule 404(a) (1) of the Utah Rules of Evidence, which provides that character evidence may not be introduced by the prosecution except to rebut character evidence introduced by the defendant. However, section 76-3-207(2)(a) makes clear that a jury may legitimately consider the defendant's character during the penalty proceeding. See §76-3-207 (2) (a) (ii). Thus, rule 404(a)(1) is in no way applicable in this instance. The trial court did not abuse its discretion in admitting evidence of lack of remorse.

B. Remoteness in Time

¶103 Defendant also takes issue with the videotape because it was made over twelve years before the second penalty hearing. Specifically, he argues that whether he felt or demonstrated a lack of remorse at the time of the news conference was not relevant to whether he felt remorse at the time the jury was

considering the penalty. We disagree. A jury may consider remorsefulness at any stage of the events at issue or at any stage of trial. A sentencing jury's consideration is not restricted to factors that exist only at sentencing, but encompasses a range of factors in order to get as complete a picture of the defendant as possible, including his remorse. See Young, 853 P.2d at 353. Remorse expressed only at sentencing is highly suspect. See State v. Galli, 967 P.2d 930, 940 (Utah 1998) (Russon, J., concurring and dissenting). Thus, allowing the twelve-year-old videotape into evidence was not an abuse of discretion because of its remoteness in time.

C. Applicability of Rule 403

¶104 Finally, defendant asserts that the videotape was prejudicial because it showed him surrounded by police officers and wearing an orange jump suit. In addition, he argues that because some jurors may have found his comments to the media offensive, the videotape may have unduly influenced them. He contends that such evidence violated rule 403 of the Utah Rules of Evidence in that any probative value of the evidence was substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice.

¶105 The State properly points out, however, that evidence may be admissible during the penalty phase, even if excluded by the rules of evidence during the guilt phase. See State v. Archuleta, 850 P.2d 1232, 1246-47 (Utah 1993); State v. Taylor, 818 P.2d 1030, 1034 (Utah 1991). Section 76-3-207(2)(b) provides that "[a]ny evidence the court [considers] to have probative force may be received regardless of its admissibility under the exclusionary rules of evidence." (Emphasis added.) Thus, we will not overturn the trial court's determination of admissibility absent an abuse of discretion.

¶106 First, we hold that allowing the jury to see defendant in prison garb and surrounded by law enforcement officers was not unduly prejudicial or an abuse of discretion. We have repeatedly held that "it is a constitutional violation for a state to compel an accused to stand trial before a jury dressed in prison clothes." State v. Kohl, 2000 UT 35, 4 21, 999 P.2d 7; State v. Bennett, 2000 UT 34, 44 3-4, 999 P.2d 1; Chess v. Smith, 617 P.2d 341, 344 (Utah 1980). In Chess, we held that "[t]he prejudicial effect that flows from a defendant's appearing before a jury in identifiable prison garb is not measurable, and is so potentially prejudicial as to create a substantial risk of fundamental unfairness in a criminal trial." 617 P.2d at 344. However, it has not been alleged that defendant was compelled to stand trial in prison garb, only that a videotaped portion of a press conference showed him in such attire. We have never had occasion to determine whether such an inadvertent appearance could be a constitutional violation, and we need not reach such a determination here. We do not believe the short videotaped clip to be unduly prejudicial. At the time of the penalty phase, defendant had already been convicted once of six first degree felonies. The jury was clearly aware that he was in custody. We do not believe such a showing was more prejudicial than probative.

¶107 Second, although some might have found defendant's comments and attitude in the clips to be offensive, defendant is calm and in control of his emotions. His conduct may have been interpreted as lacking remorse, but as we have held above, lack of remorse is a statutorily proper ground for admission of such evidence. See Young, 853 P.2d at 353 (holding a jury may consider lack of remorse in penalty phase). We cannot identify any other conduct in the clips that the jury may have found

offensive. Therefore, the trial court did not abuse its discretion on either ground in showing the clips in the penalty phase.

VI. JURY INSTRUCTION OF SYMPATHY OR MERCY

¶108 Lafferty next asserts that the trial court committed reversible error under the United States Constitution by refusing to give his requested jury instruction that the jury could consider sympathy or mercy arising from mitigating evidence in reaching its decision during the penalty phase. Prior to the penalty phase, defendant requested the following jury instruction:

> Your feelings of pity, mercy, or sympathy regarding the defendant are proper considerations in determining the penalty.

The trial court refused the instruction, even though the State did not object to its inclusion. The court instructed the jury during both the guilt and the penalty phase as follows:

> You are to be governed solely by the evidence introduced in this trial and the law as stated to you by me. The law forbids you to be governed by mere sentiment, conjecture, sympathy, passion, prejudice, public opinion or public feeling.

¶109 Defendant contends that the combination of the denial of the requested instruction at the penalty phase and the "no mercy" instruction given at the guilt phase prejudiced him by giving undue weight to issues of aggravation and disallowing mitigating factors such as sympathy, pity, and mercy. He argues that the

lack of any mercy instruction violated his Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

¶110 This claim is clearly defeated by controlling Utah and United States Supreme Court precedent. In State v. Young, 853 P.2d 327 (Utah 1993), the court refused to give a similar jury instruction and charged the jury to base its verdict on the evidence produced in the penalty phase, not on sympathy or emotion. See id. at 362. We clearly held that while the federal constitution does not prohibit a "no mercy" instruction, neither does it require an instruction that the jurors should be guided by mercy or sympathy. See id. at 363. In that decision, we relied heavily on the reasoning of Saffle v. Parks, 494 U.S. 484 (1990), which held that neither the Eighth nor the Fourteenth Amendment prevents the state "from attempting to ensure reliability and nonarbitrariness [of a death sentence] by requiring that the jury consider and give effect to the defendant's mitigating evidence in the form of a 'reasoned, moral response,' rather than an emotional one." Id. at 493 (citation omitted). Similarly, the Supreme Court in California v. Brown, 479 U.S. 538 (1987), held that a "no mercy" instruction "serves the useful purpose of confining the jury's imposition of the death sentence by cautioning it against reliance on extraneous emotional factors." Id. at 543.

¶111 In support of his position, defendant points to State v. Wood, 648 P.2d 71 (Utah 1982), in which we held that "[t]o impose the death penalty, notwithstanding serious doubt as to its appropriateness, would create in some cases . . .a substantial possibility of 'arbitrary . . .treatment' and permit 'penalties which are [not] proportionate,' a result that is forbidden by the Legislature and that would raise issues of possible constitutional

magnitude." Id. at 83 (citation omitted).

However, in Young, we again held that nothing in Wood nor in Utah law entitles a defendant to make a general appeal to the jury's sympathy. See Young, 853 P.2d at 363. "The careful effort in the sentencing proceeding to focus on evidence concerning the defendant's background, character, circumstances, and the nature of the crime committed is wasted if the jury is instructed to make a purely emotional decision instead of a reasoned response to the evidence presented." Id. at 364.

¶112 In this case, the "no mercy" instruction directed the jury to focus on the aggravating and mitigating evidence rather than on "'mere sentiment, conjecture, sympathy, passion, prejudice, public opinion, or public feeling.'" Id. (citation omitted). We see no reason to reject strong federal and state precedent. We affirm the trial court's refusal to give a mercy instruction.

VII. CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE DEATH PENALTY STATUTE

¶113 Next, defendant argues that Utah's death penalty statute, Utah Code Ann. § 76-3-207 (1995), is unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment and the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution and article I, sections 7 and 9 and the due process clause of the Utah Constitution. We have stated and continue to believe, that the death penalty is "the most solemn and final act that the state can take against an individual." State v. Wood, 648 P.2d 71, 80 (Utah 1982). Because we recognize the extremely serious and sensitive nature of the death sentence, we have carefully and repeatedly considered challenges to its

constitutionality. See State v. Holland, 777 P.2d 1019, 1026 (Utah 1989) (holding that in capital cases, we engage "in a 'comprehensive review' of the record for manifest or plain error" (citing State v. Eldrege, 773 P.2d 29, 34-35 (Utah 1989))), overruled on other grounds by State v. Holland, 921 P.2d 430 (1996). It is our duty to determine whether the "'sentence resulted from prejudice or arbitrary action or was disproportionate.'" Id. (quoting State v. Pierre, 572 P.2d 1338, 1345 (Utah 1977) ("Pierre I")); see also Tillman I, 750 P.2d 546, 553 (Utah 1987) (same); Wood, 648 P.2d at 77 (same). In this tradition, we review defendant's several claims with care and conclude that our death penalty scheme is in accordance with the United States Constitution as well as the Utah Constitution for the reasons stated below. See State v. Gardner, 789 P.2d 273, 278-79 (Utah 1989) ("Gardner I") (listing cases where challenges to our sentencing scheme have been carefully considered and rejected in the past); Bishop II, 753 P.2d at 460 & n.65 (same).

A. Proportionality

¶114 Defendant first argues that the Utah death penalty statute violates the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution by not providing for appellate proportionality review of death sentences. While some states have chosen to provide it, proportionality review is not required under the federal constitution, see Pulley v. Harris, 465 U.S. 37, 40-50 (1984), or under our state constitution, see State v. Carter, 888 P.2d 629, 657 (Utah 1994); Holland, 777 P.2d at 1025-26; Tillman I, 750 P.2d at 562.

¶115 However, in Holland, we stated:

> [T]his court has indicated that it will review death sentences for proportionality. In Wood, we stated: "In the penalty phase, it is our duty to determine whether the sentence of death resulted from error, prejudice or arbitrariness, or was disproportionate." However, we have made clear subsequently that neither this Court nor the trial courts need undertake a broad evidentiary inquiry into the variables that might affect when and under what circumstances juries throughout the state have imposed the death penalties.
>
> Our statement in Wood about proportionality is, however, meaningful. It means that this Court will not allow sentencing authorities to impose the death penalty in an invidious fashion against particular types of persons or groups of persons or in a fashion disproportionate to the culpability in a particular case. The statement also means that over time, as this Court becomes aware of a general pattern in the imposition of the death penalty in this state, the Court may set aside death sentences that fall outside the general pattern and thus reflect an anomaly in the imposition of the death penalty. But that does not mean that a defendant is entitled as a matter of course to determine how the sentencing scheme has been administered generally by trying to compare the facts and circumstances of capital cases on a case-by-case basis.

Holland, 777 P.2d at 1025-26 (citation omitted). Accordingly,

we will review generally to prevent disproportionality. See Tillman I, 750 P.2d at 562; Wood, 648 P.2d at 77; Pierre II, 572 P.2d at 1345. We will not, however, conduct a case-by-case review. See Pulley, 465 U.S. at 40-50 (holding case-by-case proportionality review is not required under federal constitution); Tillman I, 750 P.2d at 562 (holding case-by-case proportionality review not required under Utah Constitution); Andrews v. Morris, 677 P.2d 81, 97 (Utah 1983) ("Andrews II") (same); Pierre v. Morris, 607 P.2d 812, 814 (Utah 1980) ("Pierre II") (same). Thus, we review defendant's claims for proportionality as provided in Holland for (1) whether the death penalty was imposed in an invidious fashion against a particular group of people; (2) whether the death penalty was proportionate to defendant's level of culpability; and (3) whether defendant's sentence was in proportion to the general pattern of cases in our state. See Holland, 777 P.2d at 1025-26.

1. Imposition Against Particular Groups

¶116 Defendant first contends that under Gardner III, imposing the death penalty on a group of persons who are mentally ill and unable to understand their actions at the time of the commission of the offense is cruel and unusual punishment. See 947 P.2d at 639-40 (holding that this court may review sentences for proportionality with level of culpability). We need not reach this issue, however, because defendant has no standing to bring such a claim. While defendant did offer some evidence of mental illness before the trial court, there was significant evidence to the contrary. There was no determination that defendant was in fact mentally ill at the time of the murders or at the time of trial. Neither was defendant found to be legally insane under section 76-2-305 of the Utah Code. Defendant was

found guilty with no qualifier of mental illness. Without such a finding from the court below, and in light of ample evidence to the contrary, we reject the claim that defendant was part of a group of individuals sentenced to death although mentally ill at the time they committed their crime.

2. Level of Culpability

¶117 Defendant next contends that his sentence was disproportionate to his level of culpability. He asserts that because his brother Dan testified at trial to physically committing both murders, the level of his own culpability is that of an accomplice and he should have been sentenced in proportion to other accomplices instead of as a principal actor. He argues that under these circumstances, his culpability is not proportionate to his sentence.

¶118 However, this view of the evidence is one-sided. Chip Carnes testified that in the car directly after the murders, defendant confessed to committing the murder of Brenda himself. There is ample evidence to support the jury's verdict of guilty of two counts of aggravated murder--that defendant committed at least one of the murders with his own hands and masterminded the scheme that resulted in the deaths of both Brenda and Erica Lafferty. Defendant was not sentenced as an accomplice, but as the perpetrator of the murders. This level of culpability is clearly sufficient to warrant the death penalty. We therefore hold that under the jury's findings and the clear weight of the evidence, defendant's culpability in the crime was not disproportionate to his death sentence.

3. General Pattern of the Imposition of the Death Penalty

¶119 Third, defendant argues that his sentence is not proportionate to the general sentencing pattern in Utah and thus reflects an anomaly in the imposition of the death penalty in our state. Specifically, he points to Holland, where we stated that "[w]ith few exceptions, juries in this state have not opted for death penalties when a defendant has committed only a single murder; for the most part death penalties have been imposed when the defendant was involved in multiple murders, either at the time of the particular homicide charged or at some other time." Holland, 777 P.2d at 1026.

¶120 Again, defendant's argument rests on a contorted view of the evidence presented at trial; namely, that he did not commit any of the murders. We have already held that such a characterization of the evidence is misleading. The jury found defendant guilty of two counts of aggravated murder with ample evidence to support such a conclusion. The death penalty has been imposed in our state for cases involving two murders. See, e.g., State v. Taylor, 947 P.2d 681 (Utah 1997) (two counts of first degree murder).

¶121 Regardless, even had the jury not found defendant guilty on two counts of aggravated murder, his sentence would not conflict with the general sentencing pattern in our state. We have repeatedly upheld the imposition of the death penalty in cases of one first degree murder conviction. See State v. Lovell, 1999 UT 40, 984 P.2d 382 (one count each of first degree murder, aggravated kidnaping, and aggravated burglary); Menzies II, 889 P.2d 393 (one count each of first degree murder and aggravated kidnaping); Carter, 888 P.2d 629 (one count of first degree murder); Gardner v. Holden, 888 P.2d 608 (Utah 1994) ("Gardner II") (one count each of first degree murder, attempted

first degree murder, and aggravated kidnaping); Parsons v.Barnes, 871 P.2d 516 (Utah 1994) (one count each of first degree murder, aggravated robbery, and theft); Tillman v. Cook, 855 P.2d 211 (Utah 1993) ("Tillman II") (one count of first degree murder); State v. Archuleta, 850 P.2d 1232 (Utah 1993) (one count of first degree murder); State v. Taylor, 818 P.2d 1030 (Utah 1991) (one count each of first degree murder and sexual assault of a child). Thus, defendant's sentence is proportionate to others recorded in our case law and does not present any evidence of an anomaly of justice. Our duty to review for proportionality in the general pattern of cases, as required by Wood and Holland, is therefore met.

¶122 Finally, defendant argues that his death sentence is not proportionate when compared with the sentence of his brother Dan. Dan was convicted of identical capital homicide counts, as well as other first degree felony counts, yet was sentenced to life in prison. We reject such an argument and repeat that case-by-case proportionality review is not required under the United States or Utah Constitution. See Tillman I, 750 P.2d at 562 (citing generally Pulley, 465 U.S. 37; Andrews II, 677 P.2d 97; and Pierre II, 607 P.2d 812).

¶123 Defendant and his brother Dan were tried before different juries, were represented by different counsel, and had different aggravating and mitigating factors presented on their behalf. In Gardner I, we held that our proportionality review focuses

> on the individual defendant and his [or her] acts . . .not comparison with other criminals and their crimes. Each defendant is an individual, and each

> case is unique in its facts. Any attempt to draw broad comparisons between defendants or crimes calls for speculation as to why a particular defendant or crime was dealt with by that jury in that particular fashion. The many factors which may influence a jury's decision cannot be easily identified, let alone quantified.

789 P.2d at 287.

¶124 We have declined to engage in comparative proportionality review in the past, and we will not here conduct a case-by-case comparison of defendant's sentence with other similar cases, whether that of Dan Lafferty or others, to determine whether the death penalty was properly imposed.

B. State and Federal Due Process

¶125 Defendant next asserts that his constitutional due process rights were violated because the sentencing jury was allowed to consider as aggravating factors the evidence that established the crime in the guilt phase. First, he argues the admission of such evidence improperly shifts the burden to a defendant to overcome evidence of conviction. He further contends that if neither side chose to produce any evidence at the penalty phase, the death penalty would be imposed automatically, or "simply by means of the conviction of guilt." Second, defendant asserts that our sentencing scheme does not provide adequate standards to ensure meaningful review.

1. Burden Shifting

¶126 First, under Utah's capital sentencing statute, consideration of guilt-phase aggravators is permissible during the penalty phase. Section 76-5-202(1) of the Utah Code enumerates several aggravating elements that may elevate a homicide from second to first degree or aggravated murder during the guilt phase of the trial. Once a defendant has been found guilty of a capital felony, the case then goes to a sentencing phase where the aggravating circumstances found in the guilt phase may be considered. See Utah Code Ann. § 76-3-207(1)-(3)(1995).

¶127 Both this court and the United States Supreme Court have held that the consideration of aggravating circumstances in both the guilt phase and the penalty phase of a trial does not de facto shift the burden of proof to the defendant or render the sentencing scheme unconstitutional. See Lowenfield v. Phelps, 484 U.S. 231, 246 (1988); Parsons, 871 P.2d at 528; Bishop II, 753 P.2d at 460. As the State argues in its briefs, a defendant is simply given an opportunity to present additional, less obvious mitigation evidence if he so chooses. The burden of proof is never shifted to the defendant. Additionally, just as aggravating factors from the guilt phase of the trial may be considered at the penalty phase, so may any mitigating evidence or factors presented in the case-in-chief. For example, the youth of the offender would be obvious from evidence adduced at trial, as well as whether a defendant was impaired as a result of mental or emotional disturbance, intoxication or drugs, or whether a defendant acted under duress or pressure from another--all these are proper mitigating circumstances under section 76-3-207.

¶128 Finally, under our sentencing scheme, conviction does not mean the automatic imposition of the death penalty. Before

the death penalty may be imposed, a jury must determine beyond a reasonable doubt that (1) the aggravating factors in their totality outweigh the mitigating factors in their totality, and (2) the imposition of the death penalty is justified and appropriate under the circumstances. See Wood, 648 P.2d at 83 (citing State v. Wood, 648 P.2d 71, 71 (Utah 1981) (per curiam)); Holland, 777 P.2d at 1025. Then, having weighed all the circumstances, the jury may choose to impose the death penalty. Such a punishment is never mandated or imposed automatically, regardless of whether evidence is offered in mitigation. The burden never shifts to the defendant. Any such claim, then, must fail.

2. Meaningful Review

¶129 Defendant next asserts that our sentencing scheme fails to provide standards to ensure meaningful review of the penalty phase. He argues that because formal findings of fact are not required at the penalty phase, there is no chance for meaningful review.

¶130 In Wood, we held the standard for the fact finder to follow in the sentencing phase of a capital case to be

> "After considering the totality of the aggravating and mitigating circumstances, you must be persuaded beyond a reasonable doubt that total aggravation outweighs total mitigation, and you must further be persuaded, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the imposition of the death penalty is justified and appropriate in the circumstances."

648 P.2d at 83 (quoting Wood, 648 P.2d at 71 (per curiam)).

Thus, there is a clear two-pronged test the jury must meet before imposing the death penalty. Section 76-3-207(3) provides the standard of review on appeal:

> Upon any appeal by the defendant where the sentence is of death, the supreme court, if it finds prejudicial error in the sentencing proceeding only, may set aside the sentence of death and remand the case to the trial court for new sentencing proceedings to the extent necessary to correct the error or errors. (Emphasis added.) Concrete standards exist both for the imposition of the death penalty and for a review to guard against the arbitrary or capricious administration of it. We held this to be the case in Pierre II where we stated that "[u]nder these procedures our statutes are not constitutionally vulnerable." 572 P.2d at 1345; see also Wood, 648 P.2d at 83-84. We see no need to deviate from that holding here.

C. Eighth Amendment

¶131 Defendant next contends that the addition of new aggravating factors to section 76-5-202 makes the section impermissibly broad and allows for prosecutorial abuse and for similar defendants to be treated differently. Further, he argues that section 76-3-207(2) impermissibly broadens the category of aggravating factors that may be considered when deliberating the imposition of the death penalty. We reject both assertions.

1. Section 76-5-202

¶132 Since its original enactment, section 76-5-202, which

provides the circumstances under which the death penalty can be imposed, has been broadened by amendment. Defendant specifically points to section 76-5-202(1), which widened the class of defendants eligible to receive the death penalty to include those convicted of homicide while engaged in the commission, attempt, or flight after the commission or attempt to commit forcible sexual and aggravated sexual abuse of a child. See Utah Code Ann. § 76-5-202(1) (d) (1999). He argues that such a widening of the scope of potential death penalty circumstances will allow for prosecutorial misconduct and result in a greater chance that the penalty will not be imposed uniformly and equally--that the decision as to whether to charge a defendant with a capital crime has become arbitrary.

¶133 Regardless, we need not make such a determination here. The amendment defendant objects to as being overly broad was enacted in 1996, after defendant was sentenced, and had no effect on the penalty phase. "'[A]n amendment to [a] statute passed after sentence has no effect on the matter.'" Smith v. Cook, 803 P.2d 788, 792-93 (Utah 1990) (quoting Harris v. Smith, 541 P.2d 343, 344 (Utah 1975)). Consequently, defendant's challenge fails.

2. Section 76-3-207 (2)

¶134 In addition, defendant contends that section 76-3-207(2), which allows the State to introduce any evidence of aggravation in a capital case, broadens rather than narrows the class of defendants subject to the death penalty in violation of Lowenfield, which held that aggravating factors in a death penalty scheme are to be a means of "genuinely narrowing the class of death-eligible persons." 484 U.S. at 244. Specifically,

defendant argues that admitting evidence of (1) lack of remorse and (2) what he asserts was victim impact evidence was impermissible. Since we have already held above that both items of evidence were properly admissible, we also reject the general argument that the death penalty scheme is unconstitutional for a lack of narrowing the class of death-eligible persons. As we held in State v. Young, so long as the initial narrowing of death-eligible defendants occurs at the guilt phase, as it does in Utah, the use of additional aggravating factors during the penalty phase is constitutional. See 853 P.2d 327, 352 (Utah 1993).

D. Fourteen Years on Death Row as Federal Cruel and Unusual Punishment Violation and State Due Process Violation

1. Federal Cruel and Unusual Punishment Considerations

¶135 Defendant next argues that executing him, after he has spent fourteen years on death row, would violate his federal constitutional rights against cruel and unusual punishment. Convicted in 1985, defendant has spent the last fourteen years on death row in maximum security at the Utah State Prison, minus fourteen months at the Utah State Hospital and two years in custody at the Utah County Jail. Defendant bases his argument on the Supreme Court's decision in Gregg v. Georgia, 428 U.S. 153 (1976), where the Court stated that the two principal social purposes served by the death penalty are retribution and deterrence. See 482 U.S. at 183. Defendant asserts that neither of those purposes can now be served because he has been on death row for such an extended period of time. He argues that imposing the sentence without fulfilling the purposes outlined by the Supreme Court would result in the

"gratuitous infliction of suffering" and would constitute cruel and unusual punishment. See id.

¶136 However, the Supreme Court has recently denied petitions for writs of certiorari involving similar Eighth Amendment challenges to the imposition of the death penalty in cases where the defendants were on death row for twenty years or more. See State v. Moore, 591 N.W.2d 86, 93-95 (Neb.), cert. denied, 528 U.S. 990 (1999), overruled in part on other grounds by Nebraska v. Reeves, 604 N.W.2d 151 (Neb. 2000); Knight v. State, 746 So. 2d 423, 437 (Fla. 1998), cert. denied, 528 U.S. 990 (1999). In denying certiorari in Knight v. Florida, Justice Thomas stated that there is no "support in the American constitutional tradition or in [the Supreme] Court's precedent for the proposition that a defendant can avail himself of the panoply of appellate and collateral procedures and then complain when his execution is delayed." 528 U.S. at 990 (Thomas, J., concurring). Defendant presents no new support that persuades us to hold any differently. Thus, we deny defendant's claim for violation of his federal protections against cruel and unusual punishment.

2. State Cruel and Unusual Punishment and Due Process Considerations

a. Article I, Section 9

¶137 Article I, section 9 of the Utah Constitution provides that "[e]xcessive bail shall not be required; excessive fines shall not be imposed; nor shall cruel and unusual punishments be inflicted. Persons arrested or imprisoned shall not be treated with unnecessary rigor." Defendant argues that

execution after fourteen years of incarceration is cruel and unusual punishment. We disagree.

¶138 In State v. Andrews, 843 P.2d 1027 (Utah 1992) ("Andrews III"), we reasoned that execution after a lapse of eighteen years following conviction did not constitute cruel and unusual punishment under either the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution or article I, section 9 of the Utah Constitution. See id. at 1030. Andrews III provides the standard to be used in determining whether a penalty constitutes cruel and unusual punishment, which is "'whether the sentence imposed in proportion to the offense committed is such as to shock the moral sense of all reasonable men as to what is right and proper under the circumstances.'" Id. at 1030 & n.20 (quoting State v. Bastian, 765 P.2d 902, 904 (Utah 1988)); see also State v. Hanson, 627 P.2d 53; 56 (Utah 1981).

¶139 Under this standard, we hold that fourteen years in detention followed by the death penalty is not cruel and unusual or inappropriate under the circumstances. Defendant was convicted of participating in brutally beating, strangling, and slitting the throats of a young woman and her infant child. The imposition of the death sentence is not so out of proportion with the crime as to shock the moral sense of all reasonable men. Accordingly, article I, section 9 is not violated.

b. Article I, Section 7

¶140 Article I, section 7 of the Utah Constitution provides, "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law." Defendant asserts that failure to provide specific objective standards to review prosecutors'

discretion in filing death penalty charges, as well as failure to provide standards for juries to follow in imposing the death penalty, amounts to cruel and unusual punishment and unnecessary rigor under the statute. We also find this contention unavailing.

¶141 We have repeatedly considered and upheld the constitutionality of the death penalty scheme, holding that it allows neither too much prosecutorial discretion nor unguided prosecutorial discretion in determining to seek the death penalty. See Holland, 777 P.2d at 1024-25; Tillman I, 750 P.2d at 562, 572 (rejecting a broad claim of disproportionality including an assertion of specific prosecutorial abuse in charging a capital offense); Wood, 648 P.2d at 81-83; see also State v. Brown, 607 P.2d 261, 268-71 (Utah 1980) (upholding constitutionality of Utah's death penalty scheme); Gregg, 428 U.S. at 199, 224-26 (Stewart, J., plurality and White, J., concurring); Proffit v. Florida, 428 U.S. 242, 254, 261 (1976) (White, J., concurring). Defendant bears the heavy burden of convincing this court to depart from controlling precedent. See State v. Arquelles, 921 P.2d 439, 443 (Utah 1996). Defendant makes no argument that meets that burden.

VIII. CONSTITUTIONALITY OF RETRIAL

¶142 Finally, defendant contends that having to stand trial a second time violates the double jeopardy provision of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution and article I, section 12 of the Utah Constitution. He asserts two points of error for our consideration: (1) that the reversible error that occurred in the first trial was an error of the court on a point not actively challenged by defendant at trial and therefore jeopardy should have attached then; and (2) that the prosecutor wrongfully withheld one expert's opinion finding defendant incompetent to stand trial, arguing that

such information might have resulted in a different ruling on the competency issue. Defendant argues that in light of these alleged errors, his convictions and sentences should be reversed.

¶143 The Fifth Amendment to the United states Constitution states that no person shall "be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb." Similarly, article I, section 12 of the Utah Constitution states that no "person [shall] be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense." We have held that this constitutional guarantee against double jeopardy affords a criminal defendant three separate protections:
(1) protection against a second prosecution for the same offense after acquittal; (2) protection against a second prosecution for the same offense after conviction; and (3) protection against multiple punishments for the same crime. See State v. Trafny, 799 P.2d 704, 709 (Utah 1990); State v. Holland, 777 P.2d 1019, 1023 (1989), reversed on other grounds by State v. Holland, 921 P.2d 430 (Utah 1996).

¶144 Defendant charges that he was prosecuted in violation of the second protection, or protection against a second prosecution after conviction. He contends that retrial was necessary because of an error on behalf of the trial court and because of prosecutorial misconduct. He contends the errors were not committed by him and consequently jeopardy should have attached with his first conviction. We disagree.

A. Error of the Court

¶145 Defendant first argues that his retrial violated protections against double jeopardy because the trial court erred by applying an inappropriate standard for determining competency at his first

hearing. Regardless, we have held that "double jeopardy does not generally bar a second trial when a conviction was successfully vacated on appeal Or by motion for a new trial based on errors in the first." State v. Rudolph, 970 P.2d 1221, 1230-31 (Utah 1998) (citing United States v. Tateo, 377 U.S. 463, 465 (1964)); see also McNair v. Hayward, 666 P.2d 321, 323 (Utah 1983). Similarly, section 76-1-405 of the Utah Code provides that "[a] subsequent prosecution for an offense shall not be barred . . .[when t]he former prosecution result[s] in a judgment of guilt [and is] held invalid in a subsequent proceeding on writ of habeas corpus .... " Utah Code Ann. 76-1-405 (1995). That is the case here. The Tenth Circuit vacated the conviction of the first trial court on the ground that the court had failed to apply the proper standard in determining competency. See Lafferty II, 949 F.2d 1546, 1556 (10th Cir. 1991). Retrying a case when a "trial error" has occurred does not place the defendant in double jeopardy. See State v. Lopes, 1999 UT 24, 9 21, 980 P.2d 191; State v. Hiqqinbotham, 917 P 2d 545, 550-51 (Utah 1996). Retrial was proper on this ground alone, regardless of the prosecutorial misconduct, and neither the State nor defendant should be denied the right to a fair, error-free determination; "'the double jeopardy clause may not deny either side that right.'" Lopes, 1999 UT 24 at 9 21, 993 P.2d 854 (quoting State v. Lamorie, 610 P.2d 342, 347 (Utah 1980)).

¶146 We note that defendant would have us completely ignore the fact that his conviction was reversed as a direct result of his appellate challenges. However, as he states in his brief, "Defendant, after denial of the automatic appeal by the Utah Supreme Court, filed a writ of habeas corpus in the federal system, resulting in a finding that the trial judge had committed error failing to apply the correct standard of competency at the competency hearings." "'Where the defendant has complained of errors that vitiate the

prior proceedings and judgment and they are nullified at his request, he cannot then take the inconsistent position that there was a valid proceeding and judgment against him which constitute a former jeopardy.'" McNair, 666 P.2d at 323 (quoting State v. Jaramillo, 25 Utah 2d 328, 329, 481 P.2d 394, 395 (1971)); see also State v. Kessler, 15 Utah 142, 145-46, 49 P. 293, 294-95 (1897); 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law § 309 (1970) ("Where a defendant obtains a reversal of a conviction grounded on a trial court's error in the proceedings, the double jeopardy clause does not preclude retrial of him."). Thus, defendant's contention that double jeopardy protection should have been afforded him fails on this ground.

B. Prosecutorial Misconduct

¶147 Next, defendant argues that bad faith on the part of the prosecutor, who withheld exculpatory information, should invoke double jeopardy protection. Prosecutors have a duty under both the Utah and United States Constitutions to disclose material, exculpatory evidence to the defense. See State v. Bakalov, 1999 UT 45, 9 30, 979 P.2d 799. At the first trial, the court appointed several alienists who examined defendant and testified about his ability to proceed to trial. The State independently employed two additional experts, Dr. Thorne and Dr. Lebegue. The prosecution informed the court and opposing counsel of Dr. Thorne's opinion only, who testified that defendant was competent to stand trial. The opinion of Dr. Lebegue, who reached a contrary determination, was not revealed, even though defendant moved for discovery of all exculpatory evidence. The court proceeded, unaware of Dr. Lebegue's opinion, and determined that defendant was competent to stand trial. Defendant argues that the court may not have proceeded to try defendant if it had been privy to Dr. Lebegue's

opinion, and that retrying him after the prosecution failed to produce such exculpatory evidence should invoke double jeopardy protection.

¶148 Defendant cites McNair in support of his position. In that case, the prosecutor allowed the jury to commence its deliberations on the basis of sworn testimony that the prosecutor knew to be false. See McNair, 666 P.2d at 326. The court held that because a conviction would have been reversed on appeal for insufficient evidence, retrying the case would place the defendant in double jeopardy; it therefore ordered the defendant discharged from custody. See id. at 327.[14] Thus, McNair was decided on the basis of insufficiency of the evidence, not prosecutorial misconduct, and is not applicable to the case at hand.

¶149 We have, however, held that double jeopardy can bar retrial for some types of prosecutorial misconduct. It can bar retrial where a judge or prosecutor acts in bad faith with the intent to provoke a mistrial in order to provide the prosecution with a more favorable opportunity to convict. See Trafny, 799 P.2d at 709; State v. Jones, 645 P.2d 656, 656-57 (Utah 1982); State v. Ambrose, 598 P.2d 354, 357 n.8 (Utah 1979). While a prosecutor has a constitutional duty to volunteer obviously exculpatory evidence that is "so clearly supportive of a claim of innocence that it gives the prosecution notice of a duty to produce," United States v. Agurs, 427 U.S. 97, 107 (1976), the remedy for such a trial error is a new trial, and retrial to correct such error does not violate the Double Jeopardy Clause. See Burks v. United States,

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[14]Insufficiency of the evidence is a narrow exception that warrants double jeopardy protection. See Rudolph, 970 P.2d at 1231; State v. Musselman, 667 P.2d 1061, 1065 n.3 (Utah1983).

437 U.S. 1, 15 (1978) (stating that prosecutorial misconduct constituted trial error, which could be remedied by new trial); Lamorie, 610 P.2d at 347 (same); State v. Jarrell, 608 ?.2d 218, 224-25 (Utah 1980) (implying that prosecutor's withholding of exculpatory information could be remedied by new trial). Defendant received a new trial. Hence, any claim of harm resulting from any withholding of exculpatory evidence in the first trial was remedied by the second trial, which was not subject to double jeopardy protection. We therefore reject defendant's appeal on both double jeopardy challenges.

CONCLUSION

¶150 We hold that the trial court did not commit reversible error when it ruled that (1) defendant was mentally competent to stand trial; (2) Juror 220 was properly removed for cause from the jury venire; (3) defendant lacked standing to challenge the constitutionality of section 76-2-305 of the Utah Code; (4) the videotape of the crime scene and the prosecutor's statements during closing argument were not victim impact evidence; (5) the clips from defendant's press conferences held before the first trial were admissible; (6) defendant's requested jury instruction regarding mercy or sympathy was improper; (7) Utah's death penalty scheme is constitutional; and (8) double jeopardy was not triggered by trial error or prosecutorial misconduct during his first trial.

¶151 We affirm defendant's conviction and sentence.

¶152 Associate Chief Justice Russon, Justice Durham, Justice Durrant, and Justice Wilkins concur in Chief Justice Howe's opinion.

APPENDIX B

CHAPTER 15
INQUIRY INTO SANITY OF DEFENDANT

Section

77-15-1. Incompetent person not to be tried for public offense.
77-15-2. "Incompetent to proceed" defined.
77-15-3. Petition for inquiry as to defendant or prisoner - Filing - Contents.
77-15-4. Court may raise issue of competency at any time.
77-15-5. Order for hearing - Stay of other proceedings - Examinations of defendant - Scope of examination and report.
77-15-6. Commitment on finding of incompetency to stand trial - Subsequent hearings - Burden of proof- Notice to prosecuting attorneys
77-15-7. Statute of limitations and speedy trial - Effect of incompetency of defendant. 77-15-8. Bail exonerated on commitment of defendant. 77-15-9. Expenses.

77-15-1. **Incompetent person not to be tried for public offense.**

No person who is incompetent to proceed shall be tried for a public offense.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-1, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2; 2000, ch. 256, § 2.

Amendment Notes. - The 2000 amendment, effective May

1,2000, deleted "or punished" after "tried." **Cross-References.** - Death penalty decreed, insanity after, § 77-19-13.

Mental disease or defect as defense, § 76-2-305.

Notice of proposed insanity defense, § 77-14-3.

Statutory construction, "insane person,"§ 68-3-12(2)(j).

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Analysis

Criminal responsibility Determining competency Instructions. Presumptions and burden of proof Cited

Criminal responsibility.

In criminal prosecution, the true test of insanity as defense was whether defendant, at time of commission of offense, had mental capacity to know that in doing act, he was doing wrong. State v. Brown, 36 Utah 46, 102 P. 641,24 L.R.A. (n.s.) 545 (1909).

Insane person could not legally be guilty of criminal intent. State v. Brown, 36 Utah 46, 102 P. 641,24 L.R.A. (n.s.) 545 (1909).

Determining competency.

On the merits of the competency issue, this section requires the

trial court to determine whether an accused has the ability to understand the nature of the proceedings and the potential punishment and has the ability to assist counsel in his or her defense. State v. Robertson, 932 P.2d 1219 (Utah 1997).

Instructions.

In prosecution for having intercourse with female under age of eighteen in which defense of insanity was interposed, instruction, that if from consideration of all evidence, jury entertained reasonable doubt as to sanity of defendant at time of commission of offense, or that he was mentally irresponsible at time of alleged act, jury should find defendant not guilty, and that insanity or mental unsoundness must be of such degree as to leave accused in such mental state as to deprive him of capacity to understand that act committed constituted offense and was wrong, fairly defined law governing rights of accused upon defense of insanity. State v. Hadley, 65 Utah 109,234 P. 940 (1925).

Presumptions and burden of proof.

Burden of overcoming presumption of sanity rested primarily upon defendant, and he was required to overthrow it by preponderance of evidence; when defendant offered sufficient evidence to overcome this presumption, state must have established his sanity beyond reasonable doubt. State v. Brown, 36 Utah 46, 102 P. 641,24 L.R.A. (n.s.) 545 (1909).

When testimony has been introduced to overcome presumption of sanity, burden shifts and it is incumbent upon state to prove beyond reasonable doubt that defendant was sane at time of commission of offense; however there might be instances where

evidence on insanity offered by defendant is so weak and inconclusive that state might well insist on presumption of sanity and thus need not offer any rebuttal evidence. State v. Hadley, 65 Utah 109, 234 P. 940 (1925).

Cited in Cook v. Steed, 758 P.2d 906 (Utah 1988).

COLLATERAL REFERENCES

Am. Jur. 2d. - 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law §§ 95, 122.

C.J.S. - 24 C.J.S. Criminal Law § 1486.

A.L.R. - Amnesia as affecting capacity to commit crime or stand trial, 46 A.L.R.3d 544. Pyromania and the criminal law, 51 A.L.R.4th 1243. 77-15-2. "incompetent to proceed" defined.

For the purposes of this chapter, a person is incompetent to proceed if he is suffering from a mental disorder or mental retardation resulting either in:

(1) his inability to have a rational and factual understanding of the proceedings against him or of the punishment specified for the offense charged; or

(2) his inability to consult with his counsel and to participate in the proceedings against him with a reasonable degree of rational understanding.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-2, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2; 1993, ch. 142, § 1; 1994, ch. 162, §1.

Severability Clauses. - Laws 1994, ch. 162, which amended or repealed and reenacted several sections throughout this chapter, provides in § 8: "If any provision of this act, or the implication of any provision to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this act is given effect without the invalid provision or application."

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Analysis

Arrest of judgment. Determining competency. Erroneous finding. Guilty pleas.
Inability to consult with counsel. Temporary incompetence.
Cited.

Arrest of judgment.

When an alienist specifically found defendant competent to proceed to sentencing, trial court did not err in refusing to arrest judgment despite the fact that defendant may have suffered from an undetermined "mental illness." State v. Cantu, 750 P.2d 591 (Utah 1988).

Determining competency.

The trial court must hold a hearing to determine defendant's present competency to make a plea of guilty, and a trial court's attempt to make a nunc pro tunc determination of defendant's competency at a hearing subsequent to his guilty plea is contrary to the approach directed by the United States Supreme Court in *Dusky v. United States*, 362 U .S. 402 (1960). State v. Holland, 921 P.2d 430 (Utah 1996).

On the merits of the competency issue, this section requires the trial court to determine whether an accused has the ability to understand the nature of the proceedings and the potential punishment and has the ability to assist counsel in his or her defense. State v. Robertson, 932 P.2d 1219 (Utah 1997).

Because this section makes no reference whatsoever to a duty of the trial court to make any written findings on the issue of competency, a trial court did not err by failing to make and record any findings regarding defendant's competency. State v. Robertson, 932 P.2d 1219 (Utah 1997).

Erroneous finding.

Where none of the expert testimony discussed at the hearing on defendanfs motion to withdraw his guilty plea, based on the ground that he was not competent at the time he made the plea, directly supported the trial court's conclusion that defendant was competent at the time he initially pleaded guilty, the trial court's finding was in error. State v. Holland, 921 P.2d 430 (Utah 1996).

Guilty pleas.

When there is a substantial question as to a defendant's competency at the time of the guilty plea, the trial court must hold a hearing to determine the defendant's present competency to make a plea of guilty. State v. Holland, 281 Utah Adv. Rep. 3 (Utah 1996).

Inability to consult with counsel.

Defendant's asking his attorneys to forgo any defense based on

insanity or diminished capacity, even in the face of overwhelming evidence of his guilt and the consequent unavailability of any other effective defense, and his refusal to heed the advice of his attorneys, was not proof of his inability to consult with counsel. State v. Woodland, 945 P.2d 665 (Utah 1997).

Temporary incompetence.

Trial court's statement that defendant was incompetent to change his plea, which statement was based solely on defendant's temporary emotional state at one point in the trial, did not indicate an inability to assist trial counsel, and the court, therefore, did not err in not holding a competency hearing. State v. Young, 780 P.2d 1233 (1989).

Cited in Cook v. Steed, 758 P.2d 906 (Utah 1988); State v. Drobel, 815 P.2d 724 (Utah Ct. App. 1991).

COLLATERAL REFERENCES

Utah Law Review. - Legislative Developments - Criminal Law, 1994 Utah L. Rev. 1572. **Am. Jur. 2d.** - 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law §§ 56 to 64. C.J.S. - *22* C.J.S. Criminal Law § 99 et seq.

77-15-3. Petition for inquiry **as to defendant or prisoner - Filing - Contents.**

(1) Whenever a person charged with a public offense or serving a sentence of imprisonment is or becomes incompetent to proceed, as defined in this chapter, a petition may be filed in the district court of the county where the charge is pending or where the person is confined.

(2) (a) The petition shall contain a certificate that it is filed in good faith and on reasonable grounds to believe the defendant is incompetent to proceed. The petition shall contain a recital of the facts, observations, and conversations with the defendant that have formed the basis for the petition. If filed by defense counsel, the petition shall contain such information without invading the lawyer-client privilege.

(b) The petition may be based upon knowledge or information and belief and may be filed by the party alleged incompetent to proceed, any person acting on his behalf, the prosecuting attorney, or any person having custody or supervision over the person.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-3, **enacted by** L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2; 1994, ch. 162, § 2.

Administrative Rules. - This section is implemented by, interpreted by, or cited as authority for the following administrative rule(s): R671-206.

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Analysis Court-ordered hearing Cited

Court-ordered hearing.

The trial court has no statutory duty to order a competency hearing in the absence of a petition. State v. Bailey, 712 P.2d 281 (Utah 1985).

Cited in Cook v. Steed, 758 P.2d 906 (Utah 1988).

COLLATERAL REFERENCES

Am. Jur. 2d. - 21 Am. dur. 2d Criminal Law §§ 107 to 113, 127, 128.

C.J.S. - 24 C.J.S. Criminal Law § 1486.

A.L.R. - Adequacy of defense counsel's representation of criminal client - issues of incompetency, 70 A.L.R.5th 1.

77-15-4. Court may raise issue of competency at any time.

The court in which a charge is pending may raise the issue of the defendant's competency at any time. If raised by the court, counsel for each party shall be permitted to address the issue of competency.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-4, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2; 1994, ch. 162, § 3.

77-15-5. **Order for hearing** - Stay of **other proceedings** - Examinations of defendant Scope **of examination and report.**

(1) When a petition is filed pursuant to Section 77-15-3 raising the issue of the defendant's competency to stand trial or when the court raises the issue of the defendant's competency pursuant to Section 77-15-4, the court in which proceedings are pending shall stay all proceedings. If the proceedings are in a court other than the district court in which the petition is filed, the district court shall notify that court of the filing of the petition. The district court in which the petition is filed shall pass upon the sufficiency of the allegations of incompetency. If a petition is opposed by either

party, the court shall, prior to granting or denying the petition, hold a limited hearing solely for the purpose of determining the sufficiency of the petition. If the court finds that the allegations of incompetency raise a bona fide doubt as to the defendant's competency to stand trial, it shall enter an order for a hearing on the mental condition of the person who is the subject of the petition.

(2) (a) After the granting of a petition and prior to a full competency hearing, the court may order the Department of Human Services to examine the person and to report to the court concerning the defendant's mental condition.

(b) The defendant shall be examined by at least two mental health experts not involved in the current treatment of the defendant.

(c) If the issue is sufficiently raised in the petition or if it becomes apparent that the defendant may be incompetent due to mental retardation, at least one expert experienced in mental retardation assessment shall evaluate the defendant. Upon appointment of the experts, the petitioner or other party as directed by the court shall provide information and materials to the examiners relevant to a determination of the defendant's competency and shall provide copies of the charging document, arrest or incident reports pertaining to the charged offense, known criminal history information, and known prior mental health evaluations and treatments.

(d) The court may make the necessary orders to provide the information listed in Subsection (c) to the examiners.

(3) During the examination under Subsection (2), unless the court or the executive director of the department directs otherwise, the defendant shall be retained in the same custody or status he was in at the time the examination was ordered.

(4) The experts shall in the conduct of their examination and in their report to the court consider and address, in addition to any other factors determined to be relevant by the experts:

(a) the defendant's present capacity to:

(i) comprehend and appreciate the charges or allegations against him;

(ii) disclose to counsel pertinent facts, events, and states of mind;

(iii) comprehend and appreciate the range and nature of possible penalties, if applicable, that may be imposed in the proceedings against him;

(iv) engage in reasoned choice of legal strategies and options;

(v) understand the adversary nature of the proceedings against him;

(vi) manifest appropriate courtroom behavior; and

(vii) testify relevantly, if applicable;

(b) the impact of the mental disorder, or mental retardation, if any, on the nature and quality of the defendant's relationship with counsel;

(c) if psychoactive medication is currently being administered:

(i) whether the medication is necessary to maintain the defendant's competency; and

(ii) the effect of the medication, if any, on the defendant's demeanor and affect and ability to participate in the proceedings.

(5) If the expert's opinion is that the defendant is incompetent to proceed, the expert shall indicate in the report:

(a) which of the above factors contributes to the defendant's incompetency;

(b) the nature of the defendant's mental disorder or mental retardation and its relationship to the factors contributing to the defendant's incompetency;

(c) the treatment or treatments appropriate and available; and

(d) the defendant's capacity to give informed consent to treatment to restore competency.

(6) The experts examining the defendant shall provide an

initial report to the court and the prosecuting and defense attorneys within 30 days of the receipt of the court's order. The report shall inform the court of the examiner's opinion concerning the competency of the defendant to stand trial, or, in the alternative, the examiner may inform the court in writing that additional time is needed to complete the report. If the examiner informs the court that additional time is needed, the examiner shall have up to an additional 30 days to provide the report to the court and counsel. The examiner must provide the report within 60 days from the receipt of the court's order unless, for good cause shown, the court authorizes an additional period of time to complete the examination and provide the report.

(7) Any written report submitted by the experts shall:

(a) identify the specific matters referred for evaluation;

(b) describe the procedures, techniques, and tests used in the examination and the purpose or purposes for each;

(c) state the expert's clinical observations, findings, and opinions on each issue referred for examination by the court, and indicate specifically those issues, if any, on which the expert could not give an opinion; and

(d) identify the sources of information used by the expert and present the basis for the expert's clinical findings and opinions.

(8) (a) Any statement made by the defendant in the course of any competency examination, whether the examination

is with or without the consent of the defendant, any testimony by the expert based upon such statement, and any other fruits of the statement may not be admitted in evidence against the defendant in any criminal proceeding except on an issue respecting mental condition on which the defendant has introduced evidence. The evidence may be admitted, however, where relevant to a determination of the defendant's competency.

(b) Prior to examining the defendant, examiners should specifically advise the defendant of the limits of confidentiality as provided under this subsection.

(9) When the report is received the court shall set a date for a mental hearing which shall be held in not less than five and not more than 15 days, unless the court enlarges the time for good cause. The hearing shall be conducted according to the procedures outlined in Subsections 62A-12-234(9)(b) through (9)(0. Any person or organization directed by the department to conduct the examination may be subpoenaed to testify at the hearing. If the experts are in conflict as to the competency of the defendant, all experts should be called to testify at the hearing if reasonably available. The court may call any examiner to testify at the hearing who is not called by the parties. If the court calls an examiner, counsel for the parties may cross-examine the expert.

(10) A person shall be presumed competent unless the court, by a preponderance of the evidence, finds the person incompetent to proceed. The burden of proof is upon the proponent of incompetency at the hearing. An adjudication

of incompetency to proceed shall not operate as an adjudication of incompetency to give informed consent for medical treatment or for any other purpose, unless specifically set forth in the court order.

(11) (a) If the court finds the defendant incompetent to stand trial, its order shall contain findings addressing each of the factors in Subsections 77-15-5(4)(a) and (b). The order issued pursuant to Subsection 77-15-6(1) which the court sends to the facility where the defendant is committed or to the person who is responsible for assessing his progress toward competency shall be provided contemporaneously with the transportation and commitment order of the defendant, unless exigent circumstances require earlier commitment in which case the court shall forward the order within five working days of the order of transportation and commitment of the defendant.

(b) The order finding the defendant incompetent to stand trial shall be accompanied by:

(i) copies of the reports of the experts filed with the court pursuant to the order of examination if not provided previously;

(ii) copies of any of the psychiatric, psychological, or social work reports submitted to the court relative to the mental condition of the defendant;

(iii) any other documents made available to the court by either the defense or the prosecution, pertaining to the

defendant's current or past mental condition.

(12) If the court finds it necessary to order the defendant transported prior to the completion of findings and compilation of documents required under Subsection (11), the transportation and commitment order delivering the defendant to the Utah State Hospital, or other mental health facility as directed by the executive director of the Department of Human Services or his designee, shall indicate that the defendant's commitment is based upon a finding of incompetency, and the mental health facility's copy of the order shall be accompanied by the reports of any experts filed with the court pursuant to the order of examination. The executive director of the Department of Human Services or his designee may refuse to accept a defendant as a patient unless he is accompanied by a transportation and commitment order which is accompanied by the reports.

(13) Upon a finding of incompetency to stand trial by the court, the prosecuting and defense attorneys shall provide information and materials relevant to the defendant's competency to the facility where the defendant is committed or to the person responsible for assessing his progress towards competency. In addition to any other materials, the prosecuting attorney shall provide:

(a) copies of the charging document and supporting affidavits or other documents used in the determination of probable cause;

(b) arrest or incident reports prepared by a law

enforcement agency pertaining to the charged offense;

(c) information concerning the defendant's known criminal history.

(14) The court may make any reasonable order to insure compliance with this section.

(15) Failure to comply with this section shall not result in the dismissal of criminal charges.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-5, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2; 1988, ch. 1, § 399; 1990, ch. 127, § 1; 1991, ch. 166, § 4; 1993, ch. 142, § 2; 1994, ch. 162, § 4.

Administrative Rules. - This section is implemented by, interpreted by, or cited as authority for the following administrative rule(s): R671-206.

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Analysis

Appointment of examiners.
Necessity of petition.
Stay of proceedings.
Cited.

Appointment of examiners.

Trial court did not abuse its discretion in appointing alienists under § 77-14-4, in response to the timely motion for appointment of alienists by counsel for defendants, rather than ordering a 30-day

psychological evaluation at a state hospital for the purpose of investigating the defendants' defenses of diminished mental capacity due to intoxication and alcoholism under this section. Even though the trial court appointed alienists under § 77-14-4, its actions were also entirely proper under this section. State v. O'Brien, 721 P.2d 896 (Utah 1986).

Necessity of petition.

The trial court has no statutory duty to order a competency hearing in the absence of a petition. State v. Bailey, 712 P.2d 281 (Utah 1986).

Stay of proceedings.

The trial court erred by failing to enter a formal stay while defendants competency petition was pending; however, where the reviewing court found no reason for concluding that the jury's verdict, finding defendant guilty of murder and theft, might have differed on the ultimate question of guilt had the trial judge formally stayed all proceedings for two weeks as required by statute, the court's error was harmless. State v. Robertson, 932 P.2d 1219 (Utah 1997).

Cited in State v. Fife, 911 P.2d 989 (Utah Ct. App. 1996).

COLLATERAL REFERENCES

Am. Jur. 2d. - 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law §§ 107 to 113, 127, 128.

A.L.R. - Adequacy of defense counsel's representation of

criminal client - issues of incompetency, 70 A.L.R.5th 1.

Qualification of nonmedical psychologist to testify as to mental condition or competency, 72 A.L.R.5th 529.

77-15-6. Commitment on finding of incompetency to stand trial - Subsequent hearings Burden of proof- Notice to prosecuting attorneys.

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (5), if after hearing, the person is found to be incompetent to stand trial, the court shall order the defendant committed to the custody of the executive director of the Department of Human Services or his designee for the purpose of treatment intended to restore the defendant to competency. The court may recommend but not order placement of the defendant. The court may, however, order that the defendant be placed in a secure setting rather than a nonsecure setting. The director or his designee shall designate the specific placement of the defendant during the period of evaluation and treatment to restore competency.

(2) The examiner or examiners designated by the executive director to assess the defendant's progress toward competency may not be involved in the routine treatment of the defendant. The examiner or examiners shall provide a full report to the court and prosecuting and defense attorneys within 90 days of receipt of the court's order. If any examiner is unable to complete the assessment within 90 days, that examiner shall provide to the court and counsel a summary progress report which informs the court that additional time is necessary to complete the assessment, in which case the examiner shall have up to an additional 90 days to provide the full report. The full report shall assess:

(a) the facility's or program's capacity to provide appropriate treatment for the defendant;

(b) the nature of treatments provided to the defendant;

(c) what progress toward competency restoration has been made with respect to the factors identified by the court in its initial order;

(d) the defendant's current level of mental disorder or mental retardation and need for treatment, if any; and

(e) the likelihood of restoration of competency and the amount of time estimated to achieve it.

(3) The court on its own motion or upon motion by either party or by the executive director may appoint additional mental health examiners to examine the defendant and advise the court on his current mental status and progress toward competency restoration.

(4) Upon receipt of the full report, the court shall hold a hearing to determine the defendant's current status. At the hearing, the burden of proving that the defendant is competent is on the proponent of competency. Following the hearing, the court shall determine by a preponderance of evidence whether the defendant is:

(a) competent to stand trial;

(b) incompetent to stand thai with a substantial probability that the defendant may become competent in the

foreseeable future; or

(c) incompetent to stand trial without a substantial probability that the defendant may become competent in the foreseeable future.

(5) (a) If the court enters a finding pursuant to Subsection (4)(a), the court shall proceed with the trial or such other procedures as may be necessary to adjudicate the charges.

(b) If the court enters a finding pursuant to Subsection (4)(b), the court may order that the defendant remain committed to the custody of the executive director of the Department of Human Services or his designee for the purpose of treatment intended to restore the defendant to competency.

(c) If the court enters a finding pursuant to Subsection (4)(c), the court shall order the defendant released from the custody of the director unless the prosecutor infomis the court that commitment proceedings pursuant to Title 62A, Chapter 12, Mental Health, or Title 62A, Chapter 5, Services to People with Disabilities, will be initiated. These commitment proceedings must be initiated within seven days after the court's order entering the finding in Subsection (4)(c), unless the court enlarges the time for good cause shown. The defendant may be ordered to remain in the custody of the director until commitment proceedings have been concluded. If the defendant is committed, the court which entered the order pursuant to Subsection (4)(c), shall be notified by the director at least ten days prior to any release of the committed person.

(6) If the defendant is recommitted to the department pursuant to Subsection (5)(b), the court shall hold a hearing one year following the recommitment.

(7) At the hearing held pursuant to Subsection (6), except for defendants charged with the crimes listed in Subsection (8), a defendant who has not been restored to competency shall be ordered released or temporarily detained pending civil commitment proceedings under the same terms as provided in Subsection (5)(c).

(8) If the defendant has been charged with aggravated murder, murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, or a first degree felony and the court determines that the defendant is making reasonable progress towards restoration of competency at the time of the hearing held pursuant to Subsection (6), the court may order the defendant recommitted for a period not to exceed 18 months for the purpose of treatment to restore the defendant to competency with a mandatory review hearing at the end of the 18-month period.

(9) Except for defendants charged with aggravated murder or murder, a defendant who has not been restored to competency at the time of the hearing held pursuant to Subsection (8) shall be ordered released or temporarily detained pending civil commitment proceedings under the same terms as provided in Subsection (5)(c).

(10) If the defendant has been charged with aggravated murder or murder and the court determines that he is making reasonable progress towards restoration of

competency at the time of the mandatory review hearing held pursuant to Subsection (8), the court may order the defendant recommitted for a period not to exceed 36 months for the purpose of treatment to restore him to competency.

(11) If the defendant is recommitted to the department pursuant to Subsection (10), the court shall hold a hearing no later than at 18-month intervals following the recommitment for the purpose of determining the defendant's competency status.

(12) A defendant who has not been restored to competency at the expiration of the additional 36-month commitment period ordered pursuant to Subsection (10) shall be ordered released or temporarily detained pending civil commitment proceedings under the same terms as provided in Subsection (5)(c).

(13) In no event may the maximum period of detention under this section exceed the maximum period of incarceration which the defendant could receive if he were convicted of the charged offense. This subsection does not preclude pursuing involuntary civil commitment nor does it place any time limit on civil commitments.

(14) Neither release from a pretrial incompetency commitment under the provisions of this section nor civil commitment requires dismissal of criminal charges. The court may retain jurisdiction over the criminal case and may order periodic reviews to assess the defendant's competency to stand trial.

(15) A defendant who is civilly committed pursuant to Title 62A, Chapter 12, Mental Health, or Title 62A, Chapter 5, Services to People with Disabilities, may still be adjudicated competent to stand trial under this chapter.

(16) (a) The remedy for a violation of the time periods specified in this section, other than those specified in Subsection (5)(c), (7), (9), (12), or (13), shall be a motion to compel the hearing, or mandamus, but not release from detention or dismissal of the criminal charges.

(b) The remedy for a violation of the time periods specified in Subsection (5)(c), (7), (9), (12), or (13) shall not be dismissal of the criminal charges.

(17) In cases in which the treatment of the defendant is precluded by court order for a period of time, that time period may not be considered in computing time limitations under this section.

(18) At any time that the defendant becomes competent to stand trial, the clinical director of the hospital or other facility or the executive director of the Department of Human Services shall certify that fact to the court. The court shall conduct a hearing within 15 working days of the receipt of the clinical director's or executive director's report, unless the court enlarges the time for good cause.

(19) The court may order a hearing or rehearing at any time on its own motion or upon recommendations of the clinical director of the hospital or other facility or the

executive director of the Department of Human Services.

(20) Notice of a hearing on competency to stand trial shall be given to the prosecuting attorney. If the hearing is held in the county where the defendant is confined, notice shall also be given to the prosecuting attorney for that county.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-6, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2; 1990, ch. 306, § 5; 1991, ch. 5, § 92; 1991, ch. 207, § 44; 1991, ch. 292, § 4; 1993, ch. 285, § 23; 1994, ch. 162, § 5.

Cross-References. - Utah State Hospital and other mental health facilities, § 6ZA-12-201 et seq.

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Analysis

Cost of care.
Due process
Treatment.
Forced medication.
Cited

Cost of care.

Guardian of one declared insane prior to determination of guilt in criminal prosecution, and committed to state hospital, could not be compelled to pay cost of his ward's care and treatment. The ward's commitment was part and parcel of the administration of the criminal law, although he was never convicted of a crime. Oilerton v. Diamenti, 521 P.2d 899 (Utah 1974).

Due process.

The procedural safeguard afforded by this section, that no criminal defendant may be held longer than the length of time equal to the sentence he or she would face upon conviction of the charge offense, is sufficient to meet the fairness requirements of due process. State v. Fife, 911 P.2d 989 (Utah Ct. App. 1996).

Treatment.

- Forced medication.

The forcible administration of anti-psychotic medication to a patient committed under this section violated the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, as the state's interest in trying the patient for murder did not override the patient's liberty interest, and the policy for administration of medications did not address any requisite findings. Woodland v. Angus, 820 F. Supp. 1497 (D. Utah 1993).

Cited in State v. Robertson, 932 P.2d 1219 (Utah 1997).

COLLATERAL REFERENCES

Utah Law Review. - The "Mentally Ilr' and the Law: Sisyphus and Zeus, 1968 Utah L. Rev. 1.

Am. Jur. 2d. - 21 Am. Jur. 2d Criminal Law §§ 112, 113.

A.L.R. - Adequacy of defense counsel's representation of criminal client - issues of incompetency, 70 A.L.R.5th 1.

77-15-7. Statute of limitations and speedy trial - Effect of

incompetency of defendant.

(1) The statute of limitations is tolled during any period in which the defendant is adjudicated incompetent to proceed.

(2) Any period of time during which the defendant has been adjudicated incompetent and any period during which he is being evaluated for competency may not be computed in determining the defendant's speedy trial rights.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-7, enacted by L. 1994, ch. 162, § 6.

Repeals and Reenactments. - Laws 1994, ch. 162, § 6 repeals former § 77-15-7, as last amended by Laws 1993, ch. 285, § 24, relating to hearings on the petition of persons committed after a finding of incompetency, and enacts the present section, effective May 2, 1994.

77-15-8. Bail exonerated **on commitment of defendant.**

When a defendant awaiting trial is committed to a mental health facility, bail shall be exonerated.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-8, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2.

77-15-9. Expenses.

(1) In determining the competence of a defendant to proceed, expenses of examination, observation, or treatment, excluding travel to and from any mental health facility, shall be charged to the Department of Human Services when the offense is a state offense. Travel expenses incurred by the defendant shall be charged to the

county where prosecution is commenced. Examination of defendants on local ordinance violations shall be charged by the department to the municipality or county commencing the prosecution.

(2) When examination is initiated by the court or on motion of the prosecutor, expenses of commitment and treatment of the person confined to a mental health facility after examination, if he is determined to be incompetent to proceed, shall also be charged to the department.

(3) Expenses of examination, treatment, or confinement in a mental health facility for any person who has been convicted of a crime and placed in a state correctional facility shall be charged to the Department of Corrections

(4) If the defendant, after examination, is found to be competent by the court, all subsequent costs are charged to the county commencing prosecution. If the defendant requested the examination and is found to be competent by the court, the department may recover the expenses of the examination from the defendant.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-9, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2; 1986, ch. 120, § 4; 1989, ch. 197, § 2; 1991, ch. 166, § 5; 1994, ch. 162, § 7.

Cross-References. - County charges, § 17-15-17.

Supreme Court, U.S.
FILED

OCT 9 2001

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No. 01-228

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 2001

RONALD WATSON LAFFERTY,

Petitioner,

v.

STATE OF UTAH,

Respondent.

On Petition for Writ of Certiorari
To the Supreme Court of the State of Utah

BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

I. Should this Court review a state court's unanimous determination that technical procedural violations of state statutory law which occurred in connection with a competency hearing were harmless under the specific circumstances of this case where petitioner fails to establish that any of the violations implicates the constitution, and the state supreme court's ruling is consistent with prior decisions of this Court which require a review of the circumstances of each case?

II. Should this Court review a state court's unanimous determination under the appropriate legal standard that concerns voiced by petitioner's counsel and his expert concerning his trial behavior did not warrant an additional competency hearing?

PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDING

The caption of the case contains the names of all the parties.

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TABLE OF CITED AUTHORITIES

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McGregor v. Gibson, 248 F.3d 946 (10th Cir. Okla. 2001) . . . 12, 15

Pate v. Robinson, 383 U.S. 375, 86 S. Ct. 836, 15 L.Ed.2d 815 (1966) 12, 15

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Lafferty v. Cook, 949 F.2d 1546, 1552 (10th Cir. 1991), cert. denied, 504 U.S. 911 (1992) ["Lafferty II"]. 3, 4

State v. Lafferty, 749 P.2d 1239 (Utah 1988), rev'd by 949 F.2d 1546 (10th Cir. 1991) ["Lafferty I"]. 3

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RONALD WATSON LAFFERTY,

Petitioner,

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STATE OF UTAH,

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On Petition for Writ of Certiorari
To the Supreme Court of the State of Utah

BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI

The Utah Attorney General, on behalf of the State of Utah, respectfully requests this Court to deny the petition for a writ of certiorari to review the judgment of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah in this case.

OPINION BELOW

The opinion of the Utah Supreme Court is reported at State v. Lafferty, 2001 UT 19, 20 P.3d 342, and is attached to the petition for writ of certiorari as appendix A.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the Utah Supreme Court was entered on February 23, 2001. A petition for writ of certiorari was submitted to this Court on May 24, 2001, but was returned by the court clerk due to a deficiency. A revised petition was filed in this Court on August 7, 2001–165 days following entry of the Utah Supreme Court's opinion, as permitted by Rules 13.1, 13.5 and 14.5, Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States. Accordingly, this Court has jurisdiction to review petitioner's claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1257(a).

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED

United States Constitution, Amendment XIV Section 1.

> All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Utah Code Ann. § 77-15-1, *et seq.* (1995)

(complete text is attached in appendix A).

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This appeal is from petitioner's second capital trial for the murders of his sister-in-law, Brenda Lafferty, and her infant daughter, Erica, and related crimes. During the proceedings related to the first trial, several competency reviews were held. The first review involved two court-appointed alienists, Dr. Jess Groesbeck and Dr. Phillip Washburn, and resulted in a determination by the court that petitioner was competent to proceed to trial (Record [hereinafter "R."] 154-59, 376). A second review, involving an evaluation performed at the Utah State Hospital, resulted in a similar determination (R. 468-473). Petitioner thereafter attempted to commit suicide by hanging himself, and a third competency review was had (R. 265, 423-26). The court found petitioner incompetent to proceed and sent him to the state hospital for treatment. Lafferty v. Cook, 949 F.2d 1546, 1552 (10th Cir. 1991), cert. denied, 504 U.S. 911 (1992) ["Lafferty II"]. After a fourth and final competency review before petitioner's first trial, the trial court ultimately found that there was insufficient evidence to establish that petitioner was incompetent to stand trial (R. 423-26).[1] Trial proceeded in 1985, and petitioner was convicted of the two capital felonies and related crimes and was sentenced to death (R. 658-60). The Utah Supreme Court affirmed his convictions and sentences on direct appeal. State v. Lafferty, 749 P.2d 1239 (Utah 1988), rev'd

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[1]The four experts for the fourth evaluation all came from the Utah State Hospital: Van O. Austin, M.D., Robert J. Howell, Ph.D., Peter Heinbecker, M.D., and Jess Groesbeck, M..D. (R. 423-26). The State also called Eugene Thorne for this competency hearing (R. 5450:52).

by 949 F.2d 1546 (10th Cir. 1991) ["Lafferty I"]. Petitioner filed a federal habeas petition, which was ultimately denied. Lafferty appealed to the Tenth Circuit, which ruled that the trial court had used the wrong legal standard to determine the issue of petitioner's competency to stand trial, then granted the petition for writ of habeas corpus and vacated petitioner's convictions and sentences. Lafferty II, 949 F.2d at 1556.

Petitioner was again charged with two first-degree felony counts of capital homicide, in violation of Utah Code Ann. § 76-5-202(1)(b) (1995); aggravated burglary, in violation of Utah Code Ann. § 76-6-203 (1999); and conspiracy to commit first-degree homicide, in violation of Utah Code Ann. § 76-4-201 (1999) and § 76-5-203 (1995) (R. 3712-14). Competency examinations occurred at the Utah State Hospital in 1992, and testimony was ultimately received from Dr. Louis Moench, Dr. Robert Howell, and Dr. Phillip Washburn (R. 3462-64, 3473-74). The trial court found that petitioner was not competent to proceed to trial as of November 19, 1992, because of mental illness and remanded him to the Utah State Hospital for treatment (R. 3599-601). A subsequent competency hearing was held on April 4, 1994, at which Dr. Steven Golding and Dr. Noal C. Gardner testified (R. 3612-13).[2] The trial court found petitioner competent to proceed to trial (R. 3612-13; R. 5423:207).

Trial was delayed by petitioner's filing of numerous motions and by disqualification of the county attorney's office (R. 3634-3710, 3747-54, 4010-13, 4043-54, 4309-4416). On February 26, 1996, petitioner filed a motion opposing his removal from the

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[2]Respondent believes petitioner's reference to a competency hearing on February 4, 1994, is, in fact, a reference to this *April* 4 hearing. Petition at 5.

courtroom in the event he engaged in verbal or physical outbursts during trial (R. 4626-39). Allegations in the supporting memorandum concerning petitioner's competency caused sufficient concern to the State that it sought further examination to determine whether another competency hearing was required (R. 5435:40-62). The trial court permitted an expert from each side to examine petitioner (R. 5435:62-64). Based on the experts' reports, the court ordered a full competency hearing, requiring that the eight experts who had previously seen petitioner examine him to determine his current level of competency (R. 5436:3-8). Dr. Gardner, Dr. Golding, Dr. Cohen, and Dr. Wooton testified at the March 1996 hearing that petitioner was not mentally ill and was competent to proceed to trial (R. 5438:57, 205; R. 5439:17-18, 22-25, 84-85). Dr. Howell, Dr. Groesbeck, and Dr. Washburn testified that petitioner was mentally ill and was not competent to proceed to trial (R. 5437:24; R. 5438:35, 48). Dr. Heinbecker was not willing to say whether or not petitioner was competent without further evaluation (R. 5438:10-13, 16).[3]

Following the March competency hearing, the trial court issued a detailed memorandum decision and thorough findings of fact on petitioner's competency to stand trial (R. 4754-73, 4957-67, 5330-35, 5382). These exhaustive documents provide a solid basis for the court's determination that petitioner was competent to stand trial under the appropriate legal standard. Both documents are comprehensive in outlining the rationale for the court's decision, including specific reasons why petitioner's expert witnesses'

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[3]Pursuant to rule 15.2, respondent notes that petitioner erroneously represents that Dr. Heinbecker "opined that Lafferty was not competent to proceed" to trial. Petition at 8.

testimony was unconvincing and entitled to little weight (R. 4754-73, 4957-67).

The court's sixteen-page memorandum decision and its later order also specify why the testimony of the State's expert witnesses was more credible and provided a more detailed, more well-reasoned explanation for petitioner's behavior. The judge credited the ability of the State's expert witnesses to cite to specific parts of their interviews with petitioner to support their conclusions, to apply, in detail, the requisite competency standard, and to identify specific examples to illustrate why petitioner did not have a mental illness (R. 4768-69). The State's expert witnesses gave persuasive explanations for petitioner's "revelations" and demonstrated convincingly how petitioner's background and upbringing largely contributed to what the experts were seeing in petitioner (R. 4762-64). The court also found the testimony from the State's expert witnesses was corroborated, in part, by the testimony of two lay witnesses who had observed the petitioner over a long period of time during his incarceration and who had not observed any of the signs or symptoms associated with the mental illnesses diagnosed by petitioner's expert witnesses (R. 4769). This testimony was significant in view of expert testimony that the symptoms of petitioner's disorders would be readily visible even to a lay person (R. 5439:22-25; R. 5452:249).

In addition, the court noted its own interaction with petitioner and its opportunities to observe him during the proceedings (R. 4767-68). Those experiences more closely aligned with the explanations provided by the State's expert witnesses about petitioner's perceptions of reality and motivations behind many of his actions (id.). For example, the court noted petitioner's obvious "wit and warmth" and his easy ability to engage in ordinary kinds

of conversation (R. 4765-66). The court also noted that some of petitioner's stances are "not atypical" of other defendants, that many of his views are "consistent with his fundamentalist religious and political upbringing," and that his conduct and claims were rationally-based and arose from his real experiences (R. 4766; R. 5438:59-96, 198-206; R. 5439:18-20, 73).[4]

The trial court determined that the evidence amply demonstrated that petitioner accurately perceived and related to reality, was capable of sound reasoning, could assist others in following his thoughts, could recall and communicate pertinent information as he desired, and was willing to consider and discuss legal options (R. 5438:105, 115-16, 192-93, 195-205, 215-16, 226-27; R. 5439:18-20, 62-64, 72-73, 186). The judge found petitioner competent to proceed, and the case went to trial in March 1996 (R. 5444).[5]

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[4]For example, the State's expert witnesses noted that petitioner intentionally adopted ideas and labels encountered in his everyday existence, such as the term "reflector shield" taken from the program "Star Trek" (R. 5438:59), and "travelers" from a book by Dean Koontz (R. 5438:59-60). He also adopted concepts from other religions–e.g., petitioner's "good spirits" paralleled other people's "guardian angels" (R. 5438:60-62), and the idea of travelers entering and exiting a body or occupying several hosts paralleled the exorcism and reincarnation beliefs of some religions (R. 5438:60-64).

[5]Pursuant to rule 15.2, respondent clarifies the facts surrounding petitioner's subsequent mid-trial discussion with the trial judge concerning petitioner's conduct. Petition at 8-9. Respondent notes that petitioner's representations to the trial judge in chambers on April 9, 1996, involved an alleged deterioration of his behavior over the previous *two* days, not the entirety of the trial, which began on March 25, 1996 (R. 5453:17-18; R. 5444:39). Following defense counsel's presentation, the trial

The jury convicted petitioner as charged (R. 4893-96, 5099-5102, 5191-99), and imposed the death penalty for both murders (R. 4758-73). In a unanimous opinion, the Utah Supreme Court affirmed petitioner's conviction and sentence on direct appeal. State v. Lafferty, 2001 UT 19, 20 P.3d 342.[6]

STATEMENT OF FACTS

In 1983, petitioner was excommunicated from the LDS church, and in 1984, his wife, Diana, divorced him and took the children to Florida (R. 5437:9-14; R. 5445:58). Shortly thereafter, petitioner claimed that he had received a revelation from God that four people were to be "removed" (R. 5444:15; R. 5445:24).[7] Those four included Chloe Low, Richard Stowe, and Brenda Lafferty–wife of petitioner's younger brother Allen–all of whom petitioner believed had either helped his wife to obtain the divorce or been involved in his excommunication (R. 5444:15, 55-60; R. 5445:62-64). The

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court asked counsel if he was asking for the court to take action (R. 5453:19). Defense counsel voiced his disagreement with the court's pre-trial determination that petitioner was competent to proceed to trial, but chose not to seek court action, deciding instead to continue with efforts to keep petitioner from prejudicing his case (R. 5453:21-22). That is why "[t]he court took no further action to review competency" at that time. Petition at 9.

[6]Pursuant to rule 15.2, respondent points out that, contrary to petitioner's representation, the videotape of the crime scene shown at the penalty phase did *not* show the infant's wounds (R. 5330). Petition at 10.

[7]The "removal revelation" was found in a note located in the pocket of one of petitioner's shirts (R. 5445:9-15). Using LDS scriptural parlance, it named the four individuals and indicated that they were obstacles in the Lord's path and must be removed (R. 5445:15).

fourth individual was Brenda's fifteen-month-old daughter, Erica (R. 5444:15, 60).[8] Thereafter petitioner claimed to have received another revelation that the removal must be accomplished by slitting the throats of the individuals (R. 5445:29-32; R. 5446:13-15, 81-82).

On July 24, 1984, petitioner and his brother, Dan, packed up petitioner's station wagon under the auspices of going hunting (R. 5446:19-20, 87-88). During the final preparations that day, petitioner commented that God wanted Brenda and Erica to die (R. 5446:87).

Petitioner, Dan, and two friends, Charles Carnes and Ricky Knapp, drove to Brenda's home in the early afternoon while Allen was at work, and petitioner and Dan forced their way into the house (R. 5444:45-47; R. 5446:21-26). Carnes and Knapp remained in the car (R. 5446:27). Carnes testified that for the first fifteen minutes that petitioner and Dan were in the house, Carnes heard what sounded like a "pretty good fight going, things breaking," Brenda screaming and begging that they not hurt her baby, petitioner calling Brenda names, and the baby calling for her mommy (R. 5446:26-28). Then everything went quiet, and five minutes later petitioner and Dan came out from the back of the house (R. 5446:27-29). The front of Dan's shirt was covered with blood, the forearms of both men were wet as if they had been washed, and petitioner had blood on the right side of his shirt (R. 5446:28-29). Carnes could smell the blood as the two got in the car, and he insisted that Dan change his shirt (id.).

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[8]Petitioner later claimed that Erica had to be removed because she would grow up to be "a bitch like her mother" (R. 5444:60).

The foursome drove directly to Chloe Low's apartment, but no one was home (R. 5446:28-31). The driver, Knapp, thereafter missed the turn off to Richard Stowe's home, and they decided that they weren't meant to kill him at that point (R. 5446:39).

The foursome then headed to Wendover (R. 5446:39-40). During the drive, petitioner bragged about hitting Brenda as hard as he could, beating her, yelling at her, and calling her names while she pleaded with him to stop (R. 5446:40-41). Petitioner said that he had Dan hold Brenda on the floor while he cut a vacuum cleaner cord and tied it around her neck (id.). He then bragged that they carried her into the kitchen where petitioner used his knife to cut her throat, then opened the wound to let the blood flow freely (R. 5446:41-43). As he explained the events, petitioner pulled a knife from his boot, banged it on his knee, and said, "I killed her . . . . I killed the bitch . . . ." (R. 5446:42-43). Petitioner then handed the knife to Dan and said, "Thank you, Brother, for doing the baby because I don't think I had it in me," to which Dan replied, "It was no problem" (id.).

Allen found the bodies of his wife and infant daughter when he arrived home from work later in the day (R. 5444:45-49). Erica was slumped over in her crib; she had died from a five and one-half inch incision across her neck made by a very sharp object consistent with a ten-inch kitchen knife (R. 5445:131-33). Her spinal column and a little tissue was all that held her head to her body (R. 5445:131-32). Brenda was found on the kitchen floor lying in a pool of blood (R. 5444:47-49; R. 5445:153). She had an almost identical wound on her neck, together with wounds consistent with a cord being tightened around her neck and injuries consistent with a blunt force beating (R. 5445:134-37). The house was described as being the scene of a "tremendous struggle" (R. 3444:119-20).

ARGUMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The Court will grant a petition for writ of certiorari "only for compelling reasons." Supreme Court Rule 10. The Court has identified examples of the appropriate bases for granting a petition to review state court decisions: 1) a state court of last resort's disposition of an important federal question conflicts with another state court of last resort or a United States court of appeals; or 2) the state court's disposition of an important federal question that this Court has not, but should settle, or determination of the federal question in a way that conflicts with this Court's relevant decisions. Supreme Court Rule 10(b) & (c). The rule also recognizes that a petition "is rarely granted when the asserted error consists of . . . the misapplication of a properly stated rule of law." Supreme Court Rule 10.

Petitioner identifies no "compelling reason" for review of this case.

POINT I

PETITIONER PRESENTS NO COMPELLING REASON FOR THIS COURT TO REVIEW THE STATE COURT'S UNANIMOUS DETERMINATION THAT, UNDER THE SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS CASE, THE TECHNICAL VIOLATIONS OF STATE STATUTORY LAW WHICH OCCURRED IN THE EXPEDITED COMPETENCY HEARING WERE HARMLESS AND "IN NO WAY" UNDERMINED THE COURT'S CONFIDENCE IN THE VERDICT

Petitioner complains of the Utah Supreme Court's application of a harmless error analysis in reviewing claims that the competency hearing held by the trial court did not comply in all respects with Utah Code Ann. § 77-15-1, *et seq.* (1995), which sets forth the procedures designed to protect against trying and convicting an incompetent defendant. Petition at 10-13. He argues that the harmless error findings of the Utah Supreme Court conflict with the fair hearing principles articulated by this Court in Drope v. Missouri, 420 U.S. 162, 95 S. Ct. 896, 43 L.Ed.2d 103 (1975), and Pate v. Robinson, 383 U.S. 375, 86 S. Ct. 836, 15 L.Ed.2d 815 (1966), and by the Tenth Circuit in McGregor v. Gibson, 248 F.3d 946 (10th Cir. Okla. 2001), because violation of procedural statutes created to protect constitutional rights can never be harmless. Petition at 13.

This Court has held that states must establish "adequate procedures" to protect accused individuals from being convicted while legally incompetent, in violation of their federal due process rights. Pate, 383 U.S. at 378. Petitioner does not challenge the

adequacy of Utah's statutes to meet this Court's directive. See Utah Code Ann. § 77-15-1, *et seq.* (1995). Instead, he argues that *any* violation of those statutory requirements constitutes a *per se* violation of his due process right, and that the Utah Supreme Court's application of a harmless error analysis to such procedural violations denied him his right to a fair hearing. Petition at 11-13.

This Court should deny petitioner's request for review because he presents no federal constitutional issue warranting this Court's discretionary review. He faults the state supreme court's determination that procedural errors such as occurred under the specific facts of this case can be harmless. However, such a claim does not establish a constitutional violation or support petitioner's position that any variation from the statutory procedures necessarily renders the statutory scheme constitutionally inadequate to protect his constitutional rights. The mere presence of constitutional underpinnings involving the establishment of the procedures outlined in Utah's statutes does not mean that any and all deviations from the statutory procedures violate the federal constitution in every case.

In this case, both the trial court and the state supreme court believed that the deviations in this case did *not* detract from the constitutional protections afforded by the statute, given the specific circumstances at hand. This was not a situation in which petitioner's competency was being challenged for the first time, requiring the amassing of relevant information and data from scratch. By the time the challenged competency hearing occurred, petitioner had already had multiple evaluations and re-evaluations by many court-appointed experts, including the eight to be involved in this hearing. State v. Lafferty, 2001 UT 19, ¶¶ 30, 36, 20 P.3d 342. They brought with them a wealth of information about

petitioner gleaned over time from numerous sources with which they could provide a more informed and complete evaluation in a shorter amount of time than could a newly-appointed examiner previously uninvolved in the case. The trial court was able to fully protect petitioner's rights by using a maximum of expertise, a broad information base, and explicit knowledge of this particular petitioner and his mentality, all brought together within a minimum amount of time.

As adequate protection for petitioner's constitutional rights was in place, and petitioner has not established that any of the alleged procedural violations rendered the statutory protections inadequate under the facts of this case, he has not presented a "compelling reason" to grant certiorari on this issue.[9]

This claim also does not present a "compelling reason" for review by this Court because the Utah decision is consistent with the cases cited in the petition. Those cases establish that, even in the total *absence* of a necessary competency hearing, reversal depends on the circumstances of each case. See Drope, 420 U.S. at 182-83 (where a second competency hearing *should* have occurred, the court reversed defendant's conviction because it was impossible, due to case-specific facts, to remand the matter for a nunc pro tunc determination of whether the accused was competent

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[9]Further, the state supreme court did not apply the harmless error doctrine to one of petitioner's claimed errors because the court held that no error occurred. Lafferty, 2001 UT 19, ¶¶ 28, 31. Inasmuch as none of the experts were involved in "the current treatment" of petitioner, as forbidden by the statute, and the statute did not require the use of "independent examiners" as petitioner claims, there was no violation of the statute by use of the eight court-appointed alienists used in this case. Id. Where no error occurred, no constitutional violation is implicated.

to stand trial); Pate, 383 U.S. at 387 (reversal granted for the *absence* of any inquiry into competence because of the case-specific fact that six years had passed since trial, rendering any retrospective determination of defendant's competence to stand trial "difficult[]"); McGregor, 248 F.3d at 963 (no automatic reversal for use of an unconstitutional burden of proof at the pre-trial competency hearing; defendant met his burden of proof on appeal, and reversal was ordered "because of the particular balance of circumstances in this case.").

The Utah Supreme Court determined that, under the specific circumstances of this case, reversal was not required. Lafferty, 2001 UT 19, ¶¶ 31, 32, 37, 42. Petitioner does not challenge the state supreme court's implementation of the harmless error doctrine, only its applicability to this situation. Accordingly, there is no conflict with the prior rulings of this Court upon which to base certiorari review.

Under the circumstances of this case, everything the statute required the parties and the court to know and consider was adequately presented with full opportunity to cross-examine the experts. The necessary safeguards to petitioner's constitutional right to a fair hearing were in place and a result contrary to petitioner was reached based on the facts of this case. Discretionary review by this Court is not warranted.[10]

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[10]In any event, the facts of this case are sufficiently unusual that review of this case is unlikely to affect other cases, and discretionary review is unwarranted. While there were some technical violations of the statute, the procedures followed regarding petitioner's competency were more than adequate to ensure that petitioner received the fair hearing to which he was entitled. In fact, the procedure arguably provided more protection for petitioner than was required by the statute and ensured that his

POINT II

PETITIONER PRESENTS NO COMPELLING REASON FOR THIS COURT TO REVIEW THE STATE COURT'S UNANIMOUS DETERMINATION THAT CONCERNS VOICED BY PETITIONER'S COUNSEL AND AN EXPERT CONCERNING HIS TRIAL BEHAVIOR DID NOT ESTABLISH A BONA FIDE DOUBT AS TO HIS CONTINUED COMPETENCY SO AS TO REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL COMPETENCY HEARING

Petitioner seeks review of the Utah Supreme Court's determination that the concerns of petitioner's counsel and a medical doctor, expressed two weeks into trial and in a post-trial motion to dismiss, did not raise a bona fide doubt about petitioner's competency during the trial after the initial competency hearing, as required by section 77-15-5(1). Petition at 13-15. This claim states no basis for review.

First, petitioner does not challenge the state court's articulation of the appropriate standard to be applied to such a claim. Instead, he complains only that the court misapplied it. Review "is rarely granted when the asserted error consists of . . . the misapplication of a properly stated rule of law." Supreme Court Rule 10. Petitioner fails to establish that this case is a "rare" case which might warrant certiorari review.

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rights would be protected so that he would not proceed to trial if he were not competent. To the extent a retroactive determination of competency to stand trial could ever be made, this case presents the circumstances under which such a determination could occur.

The Utah Supreme Court not only applied the proper standard, but acknowledged this Court's rulings in Pate v. Robinson and Drope v. Missouri—cited in the petition—in determining that standard and the factors relevant to the inquiry. Lafferty, 2001 UT 19, ¶ 54. Taking into account those factors and conducting its own review of the affidavits offered by petitioner regarding his conduct during trial, the state court agreed with the trial court in concluding that petitioner raised no new questions from those already addressed in the March 1996 competency hearing and, hence, had not established a bona fide doubt as to his competency so as to require a new hearing. Lafferty, 2001 UT 19, ¶¶ 55-57.

Petitioner now complains that the evidence "should have raised a bona fide doubt to the trial court as to the competency of the Petitioner." Petition at 15. Petitioner merely re-argues the evidence and disagrees with the result reached by both lower courts. His disagreement with the Utah Supreme Court's assessment of the evidence under the proper standard does not warrant this Court's discretionary review.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, this Court should deny the petition for writ of certiorari.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of October, 2001,

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CHAPTER 15

INQUIRY INTO SANITY OF DEFENDANT

Section

77-15-1. Incompetent person not to be punished for crime
77-15-2. "Incompetent to proceed" defined.
77-15-3. Petition for inquiry as to defendant or prisoner - Filing - Contents.
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77-15-6. Commitment on finding of incompetency to stand trial - Subsequent hearings - Burden of proof - Notice to prosecuting attorneys.
77-15-7. Statute of limitations and speedy trial - Effect of incompetency of defendant.
77-15-8. Bail exonerated on commitment of defendant.
77-15-9. Expenses.

77-15-1. Incompetent person not to be punished for public offense.

No person who is incompetent to proceed shall be tried or punished for a public offense.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-1, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2.

77-15-2. "Incompetent to proceed" defined.

For the purposes of this chapter, a person is incompetent to proceed if he is suffering from a mental disorder or mental retardation resulting either in:

(1) his inability to have a rational and factual understanding of the proceedings against him or of the punishment specified for the offense charged; or

(2) his inability to consult with his counsel and to participate in the proceedings against him with a reasonable degree of rational understanding.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-2, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2; 1993, ch. 142, § 1; 1994, ch. 162, §1.

77-15-3. Petition for inquiry as to defendant or prisoner - Filing - Contents.

(1) Whenever a person charged with a public offense or serving a sentence of imprisonment is or becomes incompetent to proceed, as defined in this chapter, a petition may be filed in the district court of the county where the charge is pending or where the person is confined.

(2) (a) The petition shall contain a certificate that it is filed in good faith and on reasonable grounds to believe the defendant is incompetent to proceed. The petition shall contain a recital of the facts, observations, and conversations with the defendant that have formed the basis for the petition. If filed by defense counsel, the petition shall contain such information without invading the lawyer-client privilege.

(b) The petition may be based upon knowledge or information and belief and may be filed by the party alleged incompetent to proceed, any person acting on his behalf, the prosecuting attorney, or any person having custody or supervision over the person.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-3, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2; 1994, ch. 162, § 2.

77-15-4. Court may raise issue of competency at any time.

The court in which a charge is pending may raise the issue of the defendant's competency at any time. If raised by the court, counsel for each party shall be permitted to address the issue of competency.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-4, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2; 1994, ch. 162, § 3.

77-15-5. Order for hearing - Stay of other proceedings - Examinations of defendant - Scope of examination and report.

(1) When a petition is filed pursuant to Section 77-15-3 raising the issue of the defendant's competency to stand trial or when the court raises the issue of the defendant's competency pursuant to Section 77-15-4, the court in which proceedings are pending shall stay all proceedings. If the proceedings are in a court other than the district court in which the petition is filed, the district court shall notify that court of the filing of the petition. The district court in which the petition is filed shall pass upon the sufficiency of the allegations of incompetency. If a petition is opposed by either party, the court shall, prior to granting or denying the petition, hold a limited hearing solely for the purpose of determining the sufficiency of the petition. If the court finds that the allegations of incompetency raise a bona fide doubt as to the defendant's competency to stand trial, it shall enter an order for a hearing on the mental condition of the person who is the subject of the petition.

(2) (a) After the granting of a petition and prior to a full competency hearing, the court may order the Department of

Human Services to examine the person and to report to the court concerning the defendant's mental condition.

(b) The defendant shall be examined by at least two mental health experts not involved in the current treatment of the defendant.

(c) If the issue is sufficiently raised in the petition or if it becomes apparent that the defendant may be incompetent due to mental retardation, at least one expert experienced in mental retardation assessment shall evaluate the defendant. Upon appointment of the experts, the petitioner or other party as directed by the court shall provide information and materials to the examiners relevant to a determination of the defendant's competency and shall provide copies of the charging document, arrest or incident reports pertaining to the charged offense, known criminal history information, and known prior mental health evaluations and treatments.

(d) The court may make the necessary orders to provide the information listed in Subsection (c) to the examiners.

(3) During the examination under Subsection (2), unless the court or the executive director of the department directs otherwise, the defendant shall be retained in the same custody or status he was in at the time the examination was ordered.

(4) The experts shall in the conduct of their examination and in their report to the court consider and address, in addition to any other factors determined to be relevant by the experts:

(a) the defendant's present capacity to:

(i) comprehend and appreciate the charges or allegations against him;

(ii) disclose to counsel pertinent facts, events, and states of mind;

(iii) comprehend and appreciate the range and nature of possible penalties, if applicable, that may be imposed in the proceedings against him;

(iv) engage in reasoned choice of legal strategies and options;

(v) understand the adversary nature of the proceedings against him;

(vi) manifest appropriate courtroom behavior; and

(vii) testify relevantly, if applicable;

(b) the impact of the mental disorder, or mental retardation, if any, on the nature and quality of the defendant's relationship with counsel;

(c) if psychoactive medication is currently being administered:

(i) whether the medication is necessary to maintain the defendant's competency; and

(ii) the effect of the medication, if any, on the defendant's demeanor and affect and ability to participate in the proceedings.

(5) If the expert's opinion is that the defendant is incompetent to proceed, the expert shall indicate in the report:

(a) which of the above factors contributes to the defendant's incompetency;

(b) the nature of the defendant's mental disorder or mental retardation and its relationship to the factors contributing to the defendant's incompetency;

(c) the treatment or treatments appropriate and available; and

(d) the defendant's capacity to give informed consent to treatment to restore competency.

(6) The experts examining the defendant shall provide an initial report to the court and the prosecuting and defense attorneys within

30 days of the receipt of the court's order. The report shall inform the court of the examiner's opinion concerning the competency of the defendant to stand trial, or, in the alternative, the examiner may inform the court in writing that additional time is needed to complete the report. If the examiner informs the court that additional time is needed, the examiner shall have up to an additional 30 days to provide the report to the court and counsel. The examiner must provide the report within 60 days from the receipt of the court's order unless, for good cause shown, the court authorizes an additional period of time to complete the examination and provide the report.

(7) Any written report submitted by the experts shall:

(a) identify the specific matters referred for evaluation;

(b) describe the procedures, techniques, and tests used in the examination and the purpose or purposes for each;

(c) state the expert's clinical observations, findings, and opinions on each issue referred for examination by the court, and indicate specifically those issues, if any, on which the expert could not give an opinion; and

(d) identify the sources of information used by the expert and present the basis for the expert's clinical findings and opinions.

(8) (a) Any statement made by the defendant in the course of any competency examination, whether the examination is with or without the consent of the defendant, any testimony by the expert based upon such statement, and any other fruits of the statement may not be admitted in evidence against the defendant in any criminal proceeding except on an issue respecting mental condition on which the defendant has introduced evidence. The evidence may be admitted, however, where relevant to a determination of the defendant's competency.

(b) Prior to examining the defendant, examiners should specifically advise the defendant of the limits of confidentiality as provided under this subsection.

(9) When the report is received the court shall set a date for a mental hearing which shall be held in not less than five and not more than 15 days, unless the court enlarges the time for good cause. The hearing shall be conducted according to the procedures outlined in Subsections 62A-12-234(9)(b) through (9)(f). Any person or organization directed by the department to conduct the examination may be subpoenaed to testify at the hearing. If the experts are in conflict as to the competency of the defendant, all experts should be called to testify at the hearing if reasonably available. The court may call any examiner to testify at the hearing who is not called by the parties. If the court calls an examiner, counsel for the parties may cross-examine the expert.

(10) A person shall be presumed competent unless the court, by a preponderance of the evidence, finds the person incompetent to proceed. The burden of proof is upon the proponent of incompetency at the hearing. An adjudication of incompetency to proceed shall not operate as an adjudication of incompetency to give informed consent for medical treatment or for any other purpose, unless specifically set forth in the court order.

(11) (a) If the court finds the defendant incompetent to stand trial, its order shall contain findings addressing each of the factors in Subsections 77-15-5(4)(a) and (b). The order issued pursuant to Subsection 77-15-6(1) which the court sends to the facility where the defendant is committed or to the person who is responsible for assessing his progress toward competency shall be provided contemporaneously with the transportation and commitment order of the defendant, unless exigent circumstances require earlier commitment in which case the

court shall forward the order within five working days of the order of transportation and commitment of the defendant.

(b) The order finding the defendant incompetent to stand trial shall be accompanied by:

(i) copies of the reports of the experts filed with the court pursuant to the order of examination if not provided previously;

(ii) copies of any of the psychiatric, psychological, or social work reports submitted to the court relative to the mental condition of the defendant;

(iii) any other documents made available to the court by either the defense or the prosecution, pertaining to the defendant's current or past mental condition.

(12) If the court finds it necessary to order the defendant transported prior to the completion of findings and compilation of documents required under Subsection (11), the transportation and commitment order delivering the defendant to the Utah State Hospital, or other mental health facility as directed by the executive director of the Department of Human Services or his designee, shall indicate that the defendant's commitment is based upon a finding of incompetency, and the mental health facility's copy of the order shall be accompanied by the reports of any experts filed with the court pursuant to the order of examination. The executive director of the Department of Human Services or his designee may refuse to accept a defendant as a patient unless he is accompanied by a transportation and commitment order which is accompanied by the reports.

(13) Upon a finding of incompetency to stand trial by the court, the prosecuting and defense attorneys shall provide information and materials relevant to the defendant's competency to the facility where the defendant is committed or to the person responsible for

assessing his progress towards competency. In addition to any other materials, the prosecuting attorney shall provide:

(a) copies of the charging document and supporting affidavits or other documents used in the determination of probable cause;

(b) arrest or incident reports prepared by a law enforcement agency pertaining to the charged offense;

(c) information concerning the defendant's known criminal history.

(14) The court may make any reasonable order to insure compliance with this section.

(15) Failure to comply with this section shall not result in the dismissal of criminal charges.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-5, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2; 1988, ch. 1, § 399; 1990, ch. 127, § 1; 1991, ch. 166, § 4; 1993, ch. 142, § 2; 1994, ch. 162, § 4.

77-15-6. Commitment on finding of incompetency to stand trial - Subsequent hearings - Burden of proof - Notice to prosecuting attorneys.

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (5), if after hearing, the person is found to be incompetent to stand trial, the court shall order the defendant committed to the custody of the executive director of the Department of Human Services or his designee for the purpose of treatment intended to restore the defendant to competency. The court may recommend but not order placement of the defendant. The court may, however, order that the defendant be placed in a secure setting rather than a nonsecure setting. The director or his designee shall designate the specific placement of the defendant during the period of evaluation and treatment to restore competency.

(2) The examiner or examiners designated by the executive director to assess the defendant's progress toward competency may not be involved in the routine treatment of the defendant. The examiner or examiners shall provide a full report to the court and prosecuting and defense attorneys within 90 days of receipt of the court's order. If any examiner is unable to complete the assessment within 90 days, that examiner shall provide to the court and counsel a summary progress report which informs the court that additional time is necessary to complete the assessment, in which case the examiner shall have up to an additional 90 days to provide the full report. The full report shall assess:

(a) the facility's or program's capacity to provide appropriate treatment for the defendant;

(b) the nature of treatments provided to the defendant;

(c) what progress toward competency restoration has been made with respect to the factors identified by the court in its initial order;

(d) the defendant's current level of mental disorder or mental retardation and need for treatment, if any; and

(e) the likelihood of restoration of competency and the amount of time estimated to achieve it.

(3) The court on its own motion or upon motion by either party or by the executive director may appoint additional mental health examiners to examine the defendant and advise the court on his current mental status and progress toward competency restoration.

(4) Upon receipt of the full report, the court shall hold a hearing to determine the defendant's current status. At the hearing, the burden of proving that the defendant is competent is on the proponent of competency. Following the hearing, the court shall determine by a preponderance of evidence whether the defendant is:

(a) competent to stand trial;

(b) incompetent to stand trial with a substantial probability that the defendant may become competent in the foreseeable future; or

(c) incompetent to stand trial without a substantial probability that the defendant may become competent in the foreseeable future.

(5) (a) If the court enters a finding pursuant to Subsection (4)(a), the court shall proceed with the trial or such other procedures as may be necessary to adjudicate the charges.

(b) If the court enters a finding pursuant to Subsection (4)(b), the court may order that the defendant remain committed to the custody of the executive director of the Department of Human Services or his designee for the purpose of treatment intended to restore the defendant to competency.

(c) If the court enters a finding pursuant to Subsection (4)(c), the court shall order the defendant released from the custody of the director unless the prosecutor informs the court that commitment proceedings pursuant to Title 62A, Chapter

12, Mental Health, or Title 62A, Chapter 5, Services to People with Disabilities, will be initiated. These commitment proceedings must be initiated within seven days after the court's order entering the finding in Subsection (4)(c), unless the court enlarges the time for good cause shown. The defendant may be ordered to remain in the custody of the director until commitment proceedings have been concluded. If the defendant is committed, the court which entered the order pursuant to Subsection (4)(c), shall be notified by the director at least ten days prior to any release of the committed person.

(6) If the defendant is recommitted to the department pursuant to Subsection (5)(b), the court shall hold a hearing one year following the recommitment.

(7) At the hearing held pursuant to Subsection (6), except for defendants charged with the crimes listed in Subsection (8), a defendant who has not been restored to competency shall be ordered released or temporarily detained pending civil commitment proceedings under the same terms as provided in Subsection (5)(c).

(8) If the defendant has been charged with aggravated murder, murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, or a first degree felony and the court determines that the defendant is making reasonable progress towards restoration of competency at the time of the hearing held pursuant to Subsection (6), the court may order the defendant recommitted for a period not to exceed 18 months for the purpose of treatment to restore the defendant to competency with a mandatory review hearing at the end of the 18-month period.

(9) Except for defendants charged with aggravated murder or murder, a defendant who has not been restored to competency at the time of the hearing held pursuant to Subsection (8) shall be ordered released or temporarily detained pending civil commitment proceedings under the same terms as provided in Subsection (5)(c).

(10) If the defendant has been charged with aggravated murder or murder and the court determines that he is making reasonable progress towards restoration of competency at the time of the mandatory review hearing held pursuant to Subsection (8), the court may order the defendant recommitted for a period not to exceed 36 months for the purpose of treatment to restore him to competency.

(11) If the defendant is recommitted to the department pursuant to Subsection (10), the court shall hold a hearing no later than at 18-month intervals following the recommitment for the purpose of determining the defendant's competency status.

(12) A defendant who has not been restored to competency at the expiration of the additional 36-month commitment period ordered pursuant to Subsection (10) shall be ordered released or temporarily detained pending civil commitment proceedings under the same terms as provided in Subsection (5)(c).

(13) In no event may the maximum period of detention under this section exceed the maximum period of incarceration which the defendant could receive if he were convicted of the charged offense. This subsection does not preclude pursuing involuntary civil commitment nor does it place any time limit on civil commitments.

(14) Neither release from a pretrial incompetency commitment under the provisions of this section nor civil commitment requires dismissal of criminal charges. The court may retain jurisdiction over the criminal case and may order periodic reviews to assess the defendant's competency to stand trial.

(15) A defendant who is civilly committed pursuant to Title 62A, Chapter 12, Mental Health, or Title 62A, Chapter 5, Services to People with Disabilities, may still be adjudicated competent to stand trial under this chapter.

(16) (a) The remedy for a violation of the time periods specified in this section, other than those specified in Subsection (5)(c), (7), (9), (12), or (13), shall be a motion to

compel the hearing, or mandamus, but not release from detention or dismissal of the criminal charges.

(b) The remedy for a violation of the time periods specified in Subsection (5)(c), (7), (9), (12), or (13) shall not be dismissal of the criminal charges.

(17) In cases in which the treatment of the defendant is precluded by court order for a period of time, that time period may not be considered in computing time limitations under this section.

(18) At any time that the defendant becomes competent to stand trial, the clinical director of the hospital or other facility or the executive director of the Department of Human Services shall certify that fact to the court. The court shall conduct a hearing within 15 working days of the receipt of the clinical director's or executive director's report, unless the court enlarges the time for good cause.

(19) The court may order a hearing or rehearing at any time on its own motion or upon recommendations of the clinical director of the hospital or other facility or the executive director of the Department of Human Services.

(20) Notice of a hearing on competency to stand trial shall be given to the prosecuting attorney. If the hearing is held in the county where the defendant is confined, notice shall also be given to the prosecuting attorney for that county.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-6, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2; 1990, ch. 306, § 5; 1991, ch. 5, § 92; 1991, ch. 207, § 44; 1991, ch. 292, § 4; 1993, ch. 285, § 23; 1994, ch. 162, § 5.

77-15-7. Statute of limitations and speedy trial - Effect of incompetency of defendant.

(1) The statute of limitations is tolled during any period in which the defendant is adjudicated incompetent to proceed.

(2) Any period of time during which the defendant has been adjudicated incompetent and any period during which he is being evaluated for competency may not be computed in determining the defendant's speedy trial rights.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-7, enacted by L. 1994, ch. 162, § 6.

77-15-8. Bail exonerated on commitment of defendant.

When a defendant awaiting trial is committed to a mental health facility, bail shall be exonerated.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-8, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2.

77-15-9. Expenses.

(1) In determining the competence of a defendant to proceed, expenses of examination, observation, or treatment, excluding travel to and from any mental health facility, shall be charged to the Department of Human Services when the offense is a state offense. Travel expenses incurred by the defendant shall be charged to the county where prosecution is commenced. Examination of defendants on local ordinance violations shall be charged by the department to the municipality or county commencing the prosecution.

(2) When examination is initiated by the court or on motion of the prosecutor, expenses of commitment and treatment of the person confined to a mental health facility after examination, if he is determined to be incompetent to proceed, shall also be charged to the department.

(3) Expenses of examination, treatment, or confinement in a mental health facility for any person who has been convicted of a crime and placed in a state correctional facility shall be charged to the Department of Corrections.

(4) If the defendant, after examination, is found to be competent by the court, all subsequent costs are charged to the county commencing prosecution. If the defendant requested the examination and is found to be competent by the court, the department may recover the expenses of the examination from the defendant.

History: C. 1953, 77-15-9, enacted by L. 1980, ch. 15, § 2; 1986, ch. 120, § 4; 1989, ch. 197, § 2; 1991, ch. 166, § 5; 1994, ch. 162, § 7.